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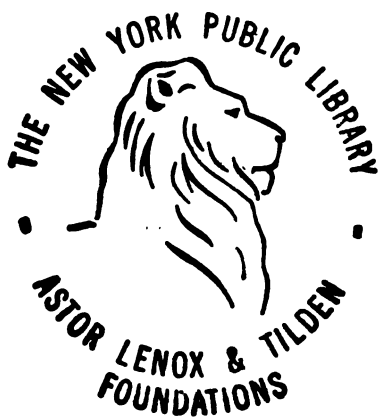
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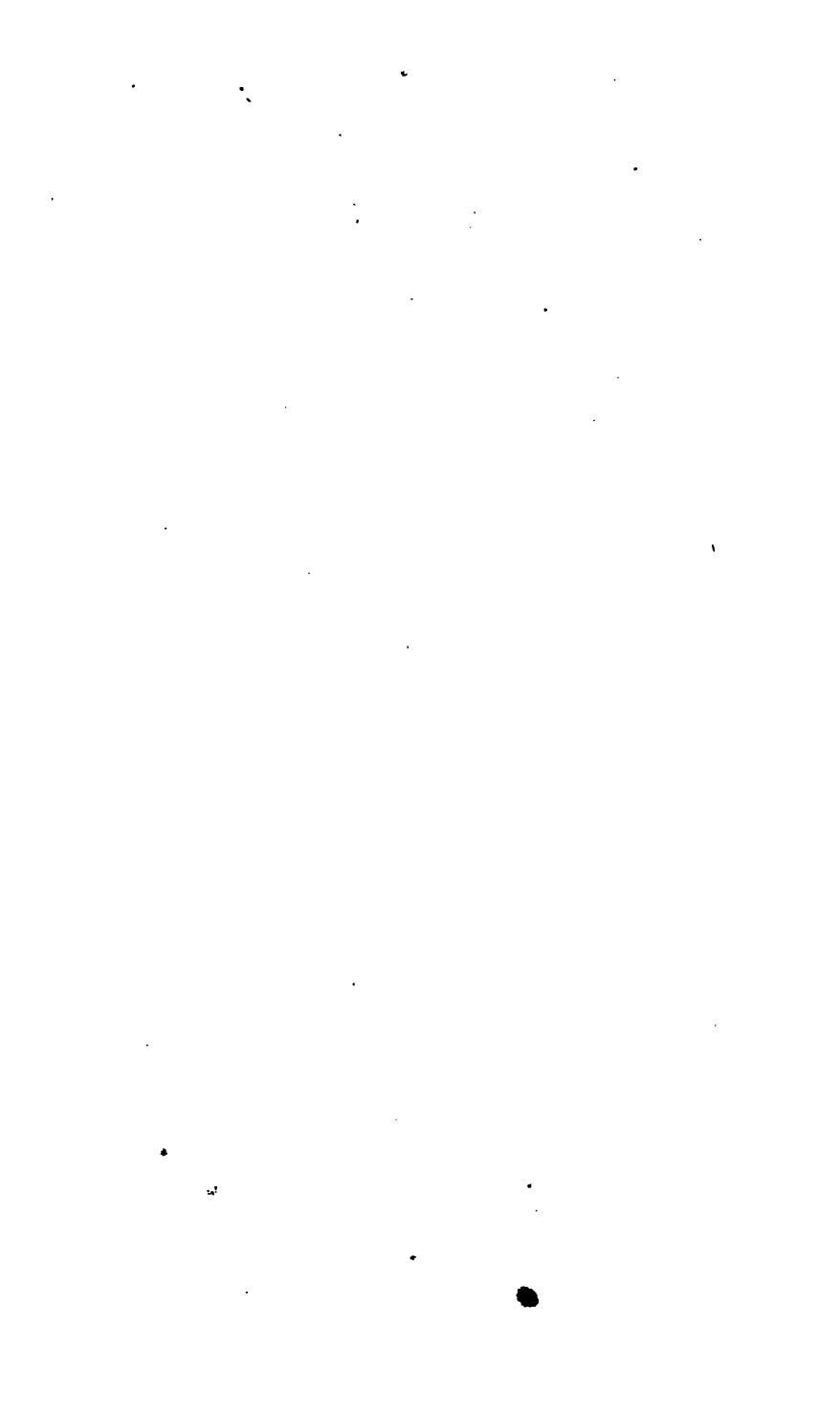
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**LETTERS**  
**ON**  
**EMIGRATION TO CANADA:**

**ADDRESSED TO THE**  
**VERY REV. PRINCIPAL BAIRD.**

**By JAMES INCHES.**

**SECOND EDITION.**

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*E. G. Allen Aug. 9, 1946*





**FACTS AGAINST EMIGRATION**  
**TO**  
**CANADA.**

---

**LETTER I.**

**TO THE**  
**VERY REVEREND PRINCIPAL BAIRD,**  
**OF EDINBURGH.**

**VERY REV. SIR,**

UPON my arrival lately from North America, when I had the honour of conversing with you on the present state and prospects of that part of the world, and more particularly of the British Provinces, I found that my description of Canada was very much at variance with the generally received opinion of the public at home. That opinion has been formed, of course, upon the information which has been procured, almost altogether, from the many books which have been written, for the last ten years, upon

the subject of Emigration to that country, and which, with very few exceptions, describe Canada as enjoying almost all the blessings which can be desired upon earth, and representing the attainment of such blessings as certain and easily to be procured by those who will make up their minds at once to cross the Atlantic, and escape from—what the writers of these publications are pleased to consider—the great and increasing miseries of Britain.

In answer to your enquiries as to the state of Education (the subject upon which you were more particularly interested), I found it to be an easy matter to explain to you the deplorable state of destitution, as I may almost call it, in which the agricultural population of the British Provinces are placed in that respect. Indeed, I was aware that I could have little difficulty in convincing you upon that point, from your familiarity with the subject of Education in the Highlands. I know well, from experience, that your benevolent disposition had induced you to devote a great part of your long life to the most philanthropic, and, happily for Scotland, the most successful exertions, in promoting the Education, and, of course, the best interests, of a very great portion of the inhabitants of our native

Islands, who, from local circumstances, and other obstacles, hitherto considered insurmountable, were, in a great measure, shut out from the means of procuring Education. Many of them, principally through your unwearied application and perseverance in visiting the recesses of their distant Islands and Mountains, now enjoy those inestimable benefits, the want of which is so much felt by every class of settlers in the forests of the West.

The British, and more particularly the Scottish Emigrants, are now placed in such circumstances as to make them feel, with the most heartfelt sorrow and bitterness of soul, the loss they have sustained by having abandoned for ever, for themselves and families, the grand and venerable Institutions of their Native Land, the value of which they never before so fully appreciated as they do now, when, to most of them, those blessings are lost for ever. They now look back with unavailing regret to the happier days, when, whatever was their rank in life, they enjoyed the benefit of Establishments, which, in all their different gradations—from the humblest Parish School to the College and the Cathedral—they now revere more than ever. These benefits are beyond their reach; for it is altogether impos-

sible that among such a mixed population, composed of people of so many nations, languages, and creeds, scattered thinly and irregularly over a vast extent of country, there can for ages be such an amalgamation as to admit of the introduction, to any extent, of such institutions, which can only be sustained by the unity of interests, and unity of action, of the whole, or nearly the whole, inhabitants of a country.

I did not wish to intrude upon your time so far as to go into any particular detail or proof of the grounds upon which, in addition to my own personal experience, during a period of betwixt three and four years in the Provinces, I differ in opinion so much from the great majority of books which have been written upon Canada ; but having, however, expressed myself as I did, I feel anxious to justify what I stated to you upon that subject, and, in order to do so, have now taken the liberty of addressing you, giving detailed statements upon several points upon which I differ so much from the opinion of many who have read and written upon the subject, but have not investigated the matter so minutely as a subject of such grave importance required.

In order to enable me to justify myself in expressing opinions so very different from those of almost

every author who has hitherto written upon the subject of Agricultural Emigration to Canada, I find myself under the very disagreeable necessity of undertaking the ungracious task of investigating minutely the statements given by former writers, and of proving that they are generally very erroneous, and, in some instances, extremely fallacious.

This mode of treating the subject may appear to be officious, and, I fear, will be considered to be, at the least, gratuitous ; but I find it indispensably necessary, in order to remove impressions which have been made on the minds of many of my acquaintances by the frequent repetition of assertions of an exactly similar nature, and also to prepare the reader for my own counter-statement, by disproving the most important statements of those who have written so very favourably on Emigration to Canada, thereby shewing how very little dependence can be placed upon those publications ; and I trust that the proofs brought forward by me will more than justify my assertion, that matters are not at all going on in Canada as is represented.

I am aware, Reverend Sir, that many of these publications will have very little weight with you, whose mature judgment cannot in any degree be

misled by the misrepresentations of persons who write merely to serve a particular private purpose, and which, if carefully investigated, generally contain certain internal evidence of their having been written as advertisements; or the still more hurtful writings of visionaries, who, in their enthusiasm, reckon as nothing, difficulties which are insuperable, and disadvantages of climate which are unalterable. Some of these authors, indeed, have written on the subject without having ever even been a winter in the country, and their publications been aided in their operation by periodical journals, some of which have compromised (assuredly for some very powerful reasons) that duty to the public which they had pledged themselves to abide by. These have been the means of seducing many respectable families from their happy homes in Britain, to encounter difficulties, as agriculturists, much greater than are ever experienced at home even by the hard-working labourer who is employed in the first stage of cultivation to prepare the stubborn and rough soil for its first seed, and draining the fields to make them fit for aration.

Even in this country—where all the necessary appliances for that purpose are so much more easily

procured than they can be, under any circumstances, in detached settlements, scattered among interminable forests—the whole expenses of clearing land, and preparing it for *profitable aration*, is seldom repaid during the lifetime of the improver. How much greater, then, must that difficulty be in Canada, where the prices of produce, and the quantity produced in proportion to the extent of surface, is not half what it is in Britain, and where the price of labour is so high, in proportion to the price of produce, that the Emigrant who carries out money with him, if he hires others, is very quickly reduced to the state of the common labourer? Indeed, he is much worse off, for the sacrifices which he has to make cause him to feel the more; and he must labour to earn a hard living, not only “by the sweat of his brow” in summer, but also by constant toil, and many long journeys by day and night, in the deep snows of a long and dreary winter, suffering, in innumerable shapes, under a severity of cold altogether inconceivable to a person who has never been out of this country, the thermometer being often upwards of 30 deg. below zero.

To those who have only to drive about in the middle of the day for pleasure, muffled up to the

nose in furs, sleighing is, indeed, very pleasant; but to the agriculturist who has to drive his produce 50, 60, or 80 miles, travelling night and day through deep snows with the same wearied horses,—or if, like the great majority of the settlers, he has not been able to keep even one horse, and thus has to drive oxen,—the conveying of produce to market is attended with a degree of misery, and a duration of suffering, totally unknown in Britain to any set of men.

That is a department of the work of a Canadian farmer which has to be done altogether by himself; for although—if he has money—he may probably get some kind of labourers to perform other work, yet he never gets any to whom he can either commit the management of his business at market, or even intrust such a distance with his cattle. Were a person to raise as much produce for sale as some late authors assert, he would not be able, in the course of a whole winter, to convey it to market, although he kept his cattle constantly on the road, and himself go along with them. But, indeed, they have little to take: and melancholy is the situation of many a man who used, at home, to come to town on the market-day to receive a large payment for pro-



duce delivered in the course of the week by his family or hired men, when he now has to submit to to the setting out a distance of 70 or 80 miles with a sled-load of beef—probably a couple of carcasses—for which, if he has sold the whole (as in general settlers are forced by their necessities to do), he will receive, in all, about seven pounds sterling, after having fed the cattle with hay seven months in the year for at least three years. One penny three farthings and twopence currency per lb. is the general price during the winter, at which time only those who are not in the immediate vicinity of a town can take their produce to market. It is, indeed, altogether impossible for an agriculturist ever to have any money in Canada, after the money which he has taken out with him is gone. He is proprietor of the soil, indeed; but, along with the soil, he inherits all the disadvantages of the country—of circumstances—of situation—and of climate. This is all so very unfavourable to the agriculturist, that it is not possible to make any money. Indeed, I have known more money made by the tenant of one of your upland farms on the Estate of Forneth (I refer to Mr. John Pennycook, afterwards proprietor of Soilerie), than I have heard of having been made in

farming by any ten agriculturists in British America, even among those who got the choice of the best lands on the first settlement of the country.

All that an agriculturist can expect to do in Canada—even although he has a capital to begin with—is to make a living by his labour. If he attempt to grasp at profits by extending his speculation, and thereby involve himself in the necessity of always looking out for, and depending upon, hired labour, he must lose his capital. If that is not very considerable he must soon get into debt, if he perseveres in his attempt to cultivate much land; and if he get into debt he will soon lose his farm, or hold it merely at the will, and altogether for the benefit, of the storekeeper.

I propose, in the subsequent Letters, which you have had the goodness to allow me to address to you,

*First*, To investigate, to make remarks upon, and, I trust, to demonstrate, the erroneousness of, the statements made by some of those Authors whose works have been most confided in, in consequence of their being highly recommended in other publications confined almost exclusively to agricultural

objects, and to some of which statements almost implicit confidence has been given without much examination, in consequence of the very great respectability of the writers.

*Secondly*, I shall give a description of the nature of the work to be done in "clearing" the land, even so far as to enable the cultivator to get possession of the soil in its original state, disencumbered of the woods, without attaining which it cannot be said to be at all in a cultivable state: premising, however, that the word "cleared," as used in Canadian phraseology, is applied indiscriminately to all lands from which the upper part of the tree has been cut and burnt, even although the enormous root, with four or five feet in height of the bole of the tree, still remains in the ground; and this word, as used by almost all writers upon Canada in this country, is altogether deceptive when used, as it very generally is, as although it had the same meaning as if the lands were really in a state fit for being cultivated by plough and harrow, and the fields properly prepared for regular aration and a rotation of crops.

*Thirdly*, I shall insert a Statistical Account of

Upper Canada, according to the latest census published in 1835, with an official Account of the Value of the whole Individual Property of the Province.

From this statement I think it must appear very evident that the Province, as a whole, is in a state of the most miserable poverty to which any country, wholly agricultural, has ever been reduced, and more particularly to have been unlooked for, considering the immense extent to which Emigration was, for some time, carried on, and the great sums, both public and private, which have been absorbed in the country. And,

*Fourthly*, I shall treat of the prospects which the agriculturist will have of future advantages to be attained when he may have accomplished at last the object of his ambition, by becoming proprietor of a farm "cleared," as it is understood in the proper acceptation of the word at home.

The dreadful state of poverty in which Canada is now placed, is, in a considerable degree, owing to the constantly recurring practice of the newly-arrived Emigrant, who has money, laying it all out at once, in the expectation of realizing, as early as possible,

the great profits which he has been led to expect will arise from the outlay of the funds which he has brought with him, and which he lays out for the improvement of the land, not doubting that by doing so he still retains his capital, and that, as at home, that capital at least is secure, a valuable property for himself and family. The reverse is the case. The high price of labour—the uncertainty of even procuring labourers when he requires them—the very small quantity of produce—the difficulty of getting his grain manufactured and carried to market—the miserably low price which the storekeeper can afford to allow for it—and the mode of payment (which, with very few exceptions, is in barter, the goods at all times to be taken at the price which the storekeepers think proper to charge them at)—soon make him feel the difference between Canada and his now wished-for home. The effects consequent upon that practice of at once laying out the money at command, although well meant, are ruinous and almost uniform. The proprietor has to apply to the storekeeper—disappointment in not getting adequate returns is almost invariably the case—the account increases—the storekeeper gets a mortgage on the property (if the purchaser has

got the titles to it), and he may, from that moment, be considered the proprietor: indeed, the store-keepers, or those to whom they, in their turn, have had to transfer the mortgages, are in reality the holders of the greater part of all the cleared lands occupied by British Settlers in Canada,—and many of these properties, upon which a great deal of money and a great deal of labour have been expended, are now of little more value, as a marketable commodity, than the original cost of the paper upon which the mortgages are written. Their value is merely nominal. Indeed, of what value can lands be in a country in which, according to Mr. Pickering's own account, as stated in page 67, "three parts (of course three-fourths) of the houses are empty, the inhabitants having 'cleared out' "?

The settlement of Canada with profit or advantage, in any respect, to Agricultural Emigrants from Great Britain, is not only as yet a mere experiment, but an experiment which every day's better acquaintance with the subject, and a more extended knowledge of the true state of the country, shows is by no means likely to succeed. The public at large now begin to see the fallacy of the great proportion of the books which have been published upon Canada, and

to know that the great majority of them have been written merely to serve the purposes of the Stock Exchange, and the interests of private individuals, who, by various means, have become owners of lands in Canada. These publications were so industriously and so successfully disseminated, and had for a moment such an effect upon the minds of many, that an immense influx of Emigrants rushed into Canada, and immediate advantage was taken of that circumstance, by a combination of the parties who had most influence and controul over the prices and disposal of the lands, to effect a rise in price for their own immediate benefit. That was effected to a certain extent, but it has been very partial—very limited, indeed, in operation, and, it may be said, very transitory. Few actual sales, comparatively speaking, have been made, and much fewer payments; the reduction in the emigration has altogether prevented that demand for land which was anticipated; and thousands would gladly dispose of their property if they could get it done, for they have now found that the laying out of their money there has been ruinous; that they have not only had all their prospects of plenty, comfort, and permanent success, completely blasted, but that their capital is

gone, and that the property which they hold is neither productive nor saleable.

Such being the state of Upper Canada, even while the settlers have had (as is alleged in the publications of the day) a ready market, and while grain bore such a price as admitted of its being sent by the merchants to England,—what are to be the consequences now, when grain is cheaper in Britain than it can possibly be raised at in Canada? It is impossible that Upper Canada, completely isolated, and at such an immense distance from the ocean, can ever become able to afford the enormous expense of transport. Wheat is almost the only article of produce which Canada can export, excepting Timber and Furs,—for the small quantity of Ashes exported, and which is almost altogether received from the United States adjacent, is not worth taking into account,—and the present price of wheat is so low in Britain, that, if imported, it would bring very little more than the expense of freight and charges.

Indeed, of the grain and flour imported into Britain from Canada, a small part only is the produce of British America. Until the year 1835, the greater part both of the flour and wheat exported was the produce of the United States; but the prices of these



articles have been higher in the States since spring 1835, and of course there has not been much States flour sold in Canada; but wheat imported from the continent of Europe to Britain, and then taken out of bond free of duty, is sent out to Lower Canada and converted into flour, and then imported into Britain duty free, as if Canadian flour; and wheat from Archangel is sold cheaper in the markets of Lower Canada than the growers in Canada can supply it at.

Canada as a whole, indeed, labours under so many disadvantages, that although every publication which is sent abroad, with the view of alluring farmers to emigrate, mentions pork among the articles which may be fed and exported to other countries with great advantage, yet Canada cannot even supply itself; and not only is there much pork imported from the States, both live and salted, but great quantities even of Irish provisions are constantly required throughout nearly the whole extent of the British North American Provinces, without which the inhabitants could not exist; and as soon as any considerable alteration takes place in the timber duties—at least to such an extent as to check the timber trade—the Canadas will have nothing to pay for imports,

being altogether shut out from any participation in the profits of the fisheries, and also, in a great measure, from the general commerce of the world, in consequence of the river St. Lawrence being shut up for one half of the year, and its ports being situated at such an immense distance from the ocean. Indeed, the profits of the fisheries, and of general trade, can only be enjoyed by those parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick which are accessible at all seasons, and more particularly the city of St. John, which alone has (from the noble river which there falls into the Bay of Fundy) an almost inexhaustible supply of timber for the demands of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the United States on the Atlantic.

The city of St. John is rising very rapidly into great importance, much more so than any other place in British America. It already carries on an extensive trade with Africa, the West Indies, the United States, and Canada; and, within these three years, has entered pretty deeply, and with success, into the South Sea whale fishery.

St. John has this great advantage over every other port in the British Provinces, that it is singularly well adapted for enjoying, to a very great extent,

all the advantages of shipowning. It is situated almost immediately on the Bay of Fundy, where the river St. John falls into it, with a depth of water admitting into the harbour vessels of the largest dimensions, at all times of the tide, and at all seasons of the year; surrounded by a country supplying ship-timber in its immediate vicinity, with such depôts of the finest logs and deals, from the different rivers and lakes in communication with it, that a ship, in going there at any time, goes to a loading port, and may be loaded immediately; the smaller vessels belonging to it, which are employed, in the summer, in the fisheries, and other trade of the Bays and Gulph, being, during the winter, employed in the West India trade, while all vessels belonging to ports more to the northward are shut up for one-half of the year in the ice.—I am, with the utmost respect,

Very Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES INCHES.

## LETTER II.

AGREEABLY to the arrangement which I proposed in Letter First, I now proceed to prove the erroneousness of different very specious and flattering accounts which have been brought before the public relative to Canada, all of the same tendency, and from which those who read them cursorily are led to believe that there is a great facility of making money by farming in that country; and I will begin with Mr. Pickering.

I take this book first, as I found, in America, that it had been much confided in by many Emigrants, in consequence of its having been highly recommended by several reviewers in this country, particularly by the *Farmer's Journal*, at one time on the first appearance of the book, and again on the 23d April, 1834, on its having reached a third edition. It has also been highly spoken of in the *Edinburgh Evening Post*, which recommends it to Emigrants as a very proper book to take with them as a *vade mecum*.

Mr. Pickering, after a residence of nearly six years in the States and Canada, from which he returned in 1829, writes from London very favourably of Emigration to Canada; and gives, as the result of his experience, a statement calculated to inspire every one who reads it with the hope of getting rich very quickly. How far his description is correct, may be judged of by a strict inquiry as to the data upon which he has made his calculations.

He gives a particular statement of the mode of management by which money may be made so very rapidly; and I now extract the statement, in order to prove how very far he is in error, and to shew to what very different results such an adventure must lead.

*Extract from Mr. Pickering's Book, entitled, "INQUIRIES OF AN EMIGRANT. By Joseph Pickering."*

"I have sometimes heard it asserted in this country, that a farm cannot be cultivated to a profit in America if the whole labour be hired, which I am confident is erroneous. That some are not, from the way they are managed, I readily admit; but that, while under judicious management, they cannot be,

my little experience convinces me of the contrary. To make it intelligible, I will state the whole hired expenses, and the value of the produce of a small farm for a year; and if it can be proved that a profit, however small, may be made on the cultivation of seventy acres only of cleared land, when the labour is all hired, it will appear evident, that a worthy farmer, and two or three sons, doing all, or only part of, this work, must be improving his circumstances, and that a larger farm may be managed to a proportionate profit. A farm of good land can be purchased on or about Talbot Street, or almost any where in the Western part of the Province, and the back settlements of the Middle Parts, at from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  dollars (11s. 3d.) to 5 dollars (22s. 6d.) per acre; and at but a moderate advance, exclusive of buildings, according to situation, &c. in any part of the Province. I have calculated the statement in dollars at 4s. 6d. sterling.

“ A Farm of 200 acres, 70 cleared; with a good log or small frame house or barn, and a young orchard, &c.—200 acres, say at 4 dollars, or 18s. per acre—800 dollars, or £180; 100 dollars, £22 : 10s. paid down, as part of the purchase, and £22 : 10s. yearly, and interest, until the remainder is paid. A

person may, with £200, settle very comfortably on such a farm, and cover all necessary outgoings, and the following items would be required :

	Dolls.
" As Stock, &c.—Two yoke of oxen, one well broken to the yoke, 45 dollars ; one yoke of steers, unbroken, 35 dollars, 80	
Three ox chains, 12 dollars ; two yokes, 3 dollars ; sled, 5 dollars,..... 20	
A horse (or brood mare) to ride, go to mill, plough between potatoes, corn, &c. .... 50	
Light Jersey Waggon, second-hand (a new one would be 65 dollars), with spring seat, both for pleasure and profit, 50 dollars ; harness, 10 dollars ; saddle, 13 dollars, ..... 75	
Two ploughs, 18 dollars ; harrows, 6 dollars ; two axes, 5 dollars ; hoes, &c. 3 dollars, ..... 32	
Six cows at 15 dollars ; 6 calves and heifer at 5 dollars, .... 120	
Two sows, 6 dollars ; thirty store pigs at 1 dollar each, .... 36	
Twenty sheep at 1½ dollars each, ..... 25	
Geese, fowls, &c. .... 5	
Household Furniture : Three beds and bedding, 50 dollars ; tables, 10 dollars ; crockery, 10 dollars ; pots and kettles, 10 dollars ; clock, 15 dollars ; common chairs, ½ dollar each ; painted Windsor ones, 1. to 2 dollars each, 10 dollars, .... 117	
The first deposit toward payment of farm,..... 100	
Total,..	660

" ONE YEAR'S OUTGOINGS AND EXPENSES.

" Girdling 10 acres of woods, clearing out the underbrush and fern, 5 dollars per acre, ..... 50	
Seed wheat for the same (1½ bushels per acre) at ⅔ dollar per bushel,..... 9	
Sowing and harrowing of ditto, ..... 5	
Ten acres of wheat, sown after pease ; ploughing, 2 dollars per acre, ..... 20	
Seed as above, 9 dollars ; sowing and harrowing, 5 dollars, 14	

Cradling and binding the 20 acres, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per acre, ..	30
Carting and stacking, .....	23
Thrashing and stacking 360 bushels at one-tenth dollar, ....	27
Suppose 10 acres sown with clover seed the year before along with oats, at 7 lb per acre (often only 3 or 4 lb per acre sown),	8
Mowing first crop early clover for hay, $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar per acre; get- ting together, 1 dollar (it wanting no making); and haul- ing together, $1\frac{1}{4}$ dollars, .....	35
Mowing the second crop for seed, .....	35
Thrashing the seed, 2 bushels produce per acre, at 1 dollar,	20
Ten acres ploughed for pease, 2 dollars per acre (often done for $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollars); seed for ditto, 3 bushels (generally 2), at half- a-dollar per bushel, .....	35
Sowing and harrowing, 5 dollars; thrashing 50 bush. 3 dollars,	8
The remainder, 150 bushels, give to hogs in straw, unthrashed, if the straw be not good for sheep and cattle (i.e. not got well); but if good, I would recommend it being given to the sheep, lightly thrashed, as the very best food to be had for them, and which they are very fond of.	
Four acres of oats for calves, sheep, milch cows, and horses, the seed, 3 bushels per acre, at $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar per bushel, 3 dol- lars; ploughing, &c. 10 dollars, .....	13
Eight acres in Timothy or other grass for hay, mowing and stacking as for clover, .....	24
Six acres corn, ploughing twice, 18 dollars; planting and har- rowing, 4 dollars; two hoeings, 9 dollars; ploughing be- tween the rows, 2 dollars; husking, &c. 12 dollars; haul- ing, thrashing, and seed, 10 dollars, .....	65
Twelve acres in sheep pasture, two acres for potatoes, cab- bages, turnips, and other vegetables, for house (chiefly), sheep, calves, &c.; hiring a stout boy at 5 dollars per month, and board for a year, to attend cattle, milk the cows, &c.	100
To the above expenses may be added one year's interest of the purchase money yet unpaid, 6 per cent. on 700 dollars, ....	42
<b>Total,.. 563</b>	



"PRODUCE OF THE SEVENTY ACRES.	Dols.
"Twenty acres of wheat, 18 bushels per acre (sometimes 30), at $\frac{3}{4}$ dollar per bushel,.....	270
Ten acres of clover seed, at 2 bushels per acre, and 7 dollars per bushel, .....	140
Six acres of Indian corn, 25 bushels per acre—150 bushels at $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar, .....	75
Thirty store pigs,* for fattening next season, .....	30
Thirty fat hogs, weighing at least 200 lbs. each (or 1 barrel) —30 barrels at 12 dollars per barrel,.....	360
Six cows, butter and cheese for summer, .....	60
A yoke of fat oxen, 60 dollars (besides a cow or two killed for the house), .....	60
Twenty lambs, 20 dollars—20 fleeces, 20 dollars,.....	40
Geese, feathers, eggs, fowls, &c. ....	10
One year's farm produce, .....	1045
Ditto expenses, .....	563
Surplus dollars, .....	482

"With the beef and vegetables allowed above, 282 dollars will keep a family of four or five persons during the year, leaving a clear profit of 200 dollars or £45, besides the improvement of the farm; and if hemp or tobacco were made part of the productions, the profits probably would be larger.

"No one that is well acquainted with Canada

"\* Five bushels of Indian corn or pease will fatten a fresh store hog, or keep one through the winter. They get their living in the woods or pastures during summer, also during the winter when nuts are plentiful, which generally happens three years out of five."

will, I think, say that I have made a partial statement. Some may think I have stated the number of fat hogs, on so small a farm, in one season, too high, as there are but a very few farmers who fatten so many. I allow there are not many; yet as there are some that do, and as I have allowed sufficient grain for the purpose, if there be any nuts at all in the woods, that objection, of course, falls to the ground."

I object almost wholly to the truth of this statement; and now submit the following remarks, being original outlay for property, &c.

In order to abridge as much as possible my remarks, I will agree with his statement in every instance in which I consider it not to be so very erroneous, and his inaccuracy so very glaring, as to be easily detected by the most superficial observer, if acquainted with agriculture and the keeping of stock, in any country.

REMARKS UPON MR. PICKERING'S FIRST ACCOUNT  
OF CHARGES.

I will, therefore, commence with the first outlay, as summed up by him in p. 164, in dollars, . . . .660

Brought forward,.....660

Adding, however, the following items, which are indispensably necessary for the carrying of the crop, and taking the produce of the farm to market; also, carriages and implements required for daily use, which have been altogether omitted in his statement.

*Ox Cart.*—It is altogether impossible to carry home the quantity of crop to be raised upon a farm of such extent, and to carry the produce to market, without a cart; and it will be seen that a cart was actually in use (p. 166). It is, therefore, very extraordinary, that while the author did not forget a “light Jersey waggon” for pleasure and profit, and also a riding saddle, he forgot the cart for the general purposes of the farm, ..... 50

*Sled*—For travelling on the snow, ..... 12

*Utensils and Tools indispensably necessary altogether omitted.*—Spades, shovels, dung forks, hay forks, plough chains, implements for cleaning grain when thrashed, even without fanners, bags, horse cloth, ropes for carts and for fasten-

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Carried forward,.....722

Brought forward, ..... 722

ing horses, &c. auger, hand-saw, adze, pick-axe, hammer, shingle axe, nails, gimblets, iron wedges, bill hooks for underbrushing, grindstone, file, scythes, stones, sickles, sneds, wheelbarrow, roller, and many other little articles required in common use, ..... 45

In the description of the farm given in p. 163, he states the building to be "a good log-house, or small frame-house or barn," that is, one building. Now, although the former occupant may have been satisfied with this building, yet, when so much stock has to be accommodated, another building is immediately wanted as stable and cow-house, and barn for hay and grain. It cannot be ascertained, from the author's book, what the cost of such other building may be; but, on referring to Mr. Fergusson's "Notes during a Second Visit to Canada, in 1833," it will be found (p. 37) that a log-house or barn for a farm of the same extent as this (200 acres), will cost £50 currency, ..... 200

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Total of original outlay, ..... 967

SECOND ACCOUNT OF CHARGES, BEING ONE YEAR'S  
OUTGOINGS AND EXPENSES, AFFECTING THE FIRST  
CROP ONLY.

THIS Account of Charges is that which includes the outlay for all necessary labour to be done in the course of the year, and that year the first year.

The author, like most other writers on this subject, takes a very summary way of managing his farm. He does it by contract,\* or rather by calculation. He stands by looking on for a few months in the fine season, until the forest disappears, and he has only to drive the golden grain to market in the "light Jersey waggon, with a spring seat," which, in the account of purchases, he has been so careful to provide for "pleasure or profit;" or, at a late period of the season, when the roads have become

\* Mr. Pickering, in the preamble to his statement, calls it "hiring;" but as his whole narrative proves that people cannot be got to hire at the time particularly wanted, a regular contract must be supposed to be entered into; and I have applied this word as it has been made use of by others who have made similar statements, and who—in order *at once* to convert wild forest land into cultivated fields, grasp at imaginary crops, and make short statements of cost and proceeds—have assumed that all these operations may be performed in the almost uninhabited deserts, with as much exactness as if the employer was surrounded by competitors for the job, in a densely peopled district of Scotland.

really practicable by the falling of snow, he will have the pleasure of driving the grain, and his thirty barrels of pork, to market, along with his butter, cheese, poultry, wool, feathers, &c. in this, as he says in p. 77, "the most lively part of the year, when sleighing is universal, for business or pleasure, from one end of the province to the other,"—"when (as he says in the same page) with warm clothing, a fur cap, and a bear or buffalo's skin over the back and feet, it is a very pleasant and very easy way of travelling, enlivened by the numerous sleighs, and the jingling of bells which the horses are required to wear. In this season many of the Canadians have quite a military appearance."

This is what our author, like many other writers on Canada, seems to dream of, and delight to dwell upon, in writing an account of his travels; taking care, however, to devote a portion of the journal for game, shooting, fishing, and getting up a comfortable house, to keep off the rigours of a Canadian winter, in a "frolic," in the course of a forenoon, at the expense of a few gallons of whisky.

With these subjects it is a very easy matter to fill up any number of pages; and too often the unsuspecting and uncautious reader is excited, by the

seductive descriptions, to wish to join in such a joyous and hospitable party, who seem to drive so pleasantly to happiness and wealth, and to step so very easily into the possession of an *Estate*—for that has now become the word in universal use in these publications, as applied to every purchase of land in Canada, whether the purchaser is a capitalist, or whatever may be his circumstances, down to that of the poor Irish labourer, who goes out almost without clothes to cover his nakedness, but who may, by some means, easily attain a piece of forest land, upon which to raise potatoes for his starving family, and furnish fuel to keep them from perishing, from the dreadful severity of the winter.

However copious the author may be in giving an account of the many instances in which he met with ease, plenty, and bright prospects, yet when he comes to speak of the clearing of the forest, and making a cultivated farm, with snug houses and barns, he takes a short, easy, and expeditious way of doing it. He does it by contract. He conceives himself to be all-powerful from the circumstance of his having a little money in his pocket to begin with, and that merely by his making his appearance in this new character, he is to arrive very easily at the desired

object—*his procuring a great quantity of disposable produce to take to market*; and as he is frightened at the roughness of the concern himself, he hires contractors to do the work, calculates what it may be done for, and now gives, in this statement, the result of his lucubrations. He purchases a partially cleared farm in a wilderness—buys stock for labour, and to make money by the sale of their produce—raises a valuable crop—sells pork, lambs, and fat oxen; in short, an immense quantity of produce of all kinds—improves his farm—lives well, as he himself states in p. 166—and has enriched himself to the extent of 200 hard dollars, which he has in his pocket, after paying all expenses of outlay; and all this besides the value of his *improvements* at the expiry even of the first year.

This is, indeed, excellent; but to any person who really has an interest in the subject, it is necessary to investigate the matter more closely, and to examine whether or not it is really so, and whether, by this easy method of making contracts, all this money may be made so quickly in Canada.

In a highly-cultivated and densely-peopled country, where a complete establishment of men and horses, and of every implement of husbandry, is kept,



or, if not kept, is to be procured for hire, with a facility of procuring, upon a few hours' notice, assistance to any extent required, however short the time may be for which that assistance is wanted,—and, at the very season in which additional work has to be done, where any number can be got of agricultural labourers, trained from their infancy to every operation which has to be performed on a farm, from the first breaking up of the land, to the sending off of the various produce, prepared, in the most complete state, for a distant market,—where the services of excellent tradesmen are to be had in the immediate neighbourhood, for making, repairing, and keeping in proper working order, the many implements required, and for shoeing the cattle employed,—and where the finest roads that can possibly be made, at any expense, are kept in a complete state of repair for facilitating the transport of produce to market,—husbandry is reduced to such a complete system, that a very near approximation may be made to the amount of expenses of the common operations of ploughing, harrowing, reaping, thrashing, and carrying to market, which is generally within a few miles of the farm. But in such a case as that now under consideration, the absurdity of

applying such calculations and estimates will appear evident to any person who will reflect, for a moment, on the different circumstances under which the British agriculturist is placed, when he leaves his long-cultivated and smooth fields of home, to "make a farm" in the wilderness of Canada.

He is at once not only deprived of all those assistants and resources which he had at home, and to which, from early and habitual use, he had been accustomed to apply upon all occasions, but he is among strange people of many nations, without whose assistance, and even without whose direction, he is altogether unable to perform operations so different from what he had ever been accustomed to before. If in a thinly inhabited part of the country, he finds himself completely in a desert—in a wilderness, which, for a while, strikes him with awe. What is called a farm is in such a state of roughness, that to make the fields fit even for receiving the seed seems almost hopeless. He must, however, set to work; but even this he cannot do without observing how others get such work done: he must ask of his neighbours—he must procure their assistance—he must, in a great measure, conform to their habits—and he must repay that assistance with his own la-

bour, at such time as called for, or at whatever distance,—a payment which is lightly spoken of as another “frolic,” but which is ruinous to his own arrangements.

Upon every farm, whether it is what is called a cleared farm or not, an operation which has to be performed at all seasons, and which occupies all the time which can be spared from the more urgent matters, is the clearing away of immense trees.

Many persons, when they read at home in the publications, or rather advertisements, about Canada (in which this operation is always glossed over as a very light matter), consider it to be very easily done. They say—“Oh! it is only cutting down a parcel of trees and putting fire to them!” Very different, indeed, is the case when it has to be set about on the spot. Not only unaccustomed to wield the axe, but not even able to keep it in proper order without considerable practice, the Emigrant finds he has to cut down the majestic giants of the forest, which have withstood the storms and flourished for ages, until they have attained a growth and strength which makes it no easy matter to overcome, and of which, even when they have been levelled, it is no easy matter to clear away the very wreck. Indeed,

although the trunk and branches have been at last destroyed with fire, before even a partial benefit can be derived from the ground, yet the roots, even when the young shoots are destroyed annually, and themselves much decayed, are of such immense size, that in many cases the clearance (a partially cleared farm) has been abandoned without their ever having been removed. Of all the lands which have been "cleared" (as it is erroneously expressed) in British America for the last twenty years, not one-tenth part has been brought into a state of regular aration.

The clearance of the forest, therefore, is a most Herculean labour, and will never be spoken of lightly by any person who has ever wrought at it or seen the work done, and will without partiality write upon the subject. The getting of land brought into a state fit for proper and productive aration by contract is altogether chimerical. Bargains are frequently made by labourers—generally strangers, who are told that by contracting at the price offered they will make good wages—to cut down, fence, and burn a certain number of acres; but although this bargain is made, it is very seldom fulfilled. The labourers have, in the meantime, to be supplied with provisions, to be accounted for out of the sum to be

allowed for the work when finished—they soon find that they have been overreached—will work no longer at it—and it ends in disappointment to both parties. The work is scarcely ever finished. Even where a bargain is made, it is only the manual labour which has to be done by the person who contracts to do it. It is not to be supposed that the labourer is to hire either cattle to assist in dragging the logs to the heap, or tools to work with. All these have to be provided by the owner of the land, who has also to provide for the wants of the labourer while he works. The owner, therefore, has to keep up the same establishment of stock, and supplies of provisions, as if he had really hired men by the month or by the year. He must provide oxen to drag the trunks to the heaps, which have to be made up very carefully, for unless they are carefully made there will not be a sufficient heat to consume the thick logs, many of them being from 3 to 4 feet in diameter. The great weight of the logs makes it necessary to have a number of men and a yoke of oxen at least, for without a combination of power it cannot be done. A great many of these logs, when half consumed, are left unburnt for want of smaller wood, and have afterwards to be collected

and burnt in new heaps. Altogether, it is a work, although of daily practice, yet very laborious and very tedious, the getting of it effected to any extent against a particular time being very precarious, depending much upon the state of the weather, and whether, from the more important operations of the season as to seed-time and harvest, you can get it attended to, either by hired labourers of your own, or those with whom you have engaged to have it done on contract.

It is, however, unnecessary to say any thing further on the subject of the author's making the supposition that his work, in every different department, may be got done at a certain specified rate, as if he were at home in Britain. His own writings furnish sufficient proof of the fallacy of such a calculation, and to it I will refer.

In page 66 of his "Inquiries," he says—"it has been said that, in America, if you want any thing done, you must do it yourself, which, generally, is true, as you cannot always hire others. This is peculiarly the case in new settled states, where every one can get land for himself. This is the reason customs differ from those in England. If you want grist ground, you must take it in your waggon or

sleigh to the mill, and even into the mill, and out again when ground. The same at distilleries and stores. Goods are seldom delivered even at the door; every person in business acts as if conferring a favour."

At page 71, he says (while he was himself in Col. Talbot's employ), under date 16th August—"Rain all day, with the wheat and oats in the field yet, *for want of hands.*"

Page 113, he says—"Some farmers have 1200 to 1400 bushels wheat in a year, but few hands besides their own families. *Indeed, they are not to be procured, as nobody in the country works out much: they nearly all have land of their own.*"

Having given, then, these three extracts from his own writings, to shew that men cannot be got to hire when wanted, I shall say no more on the subject, as I presume that these, being made in reference to the very part of the country in which he then was, will be considered sufficient to prove that the work of the farms—I mean as to the regular cultivation of them, and management of the produce, so far as extra labour has to be procured—must be done by people hired by the month or year, and under such circumstances as to make it impossible

to make any calculation of the expense of any particular operation, founded on the basis of the rate at which that part of the labour could be done at home. The consideration, therefore, in making an estimate of the probable expense to which a person will be subjected in getting a farm cultivated, and the different operations performed in the season, is to examine carefully with how few hands it is possible to get the work done.

Mr. Pickering does not say at what time he proposes entering upon his farm; but as he supposes a case in which he has to perform the whole labour of the farm, as to ploughing, &c. and also to take the crop to market (which can only be done in the winter), the entry must be as early as possible; and the only period by entering at which it will be possible for him to get all this accomplished, is to suppose it to be the 1st of March, so as to admit of his taking possession, and getting stock, and every thing upon the place, in time to be ready for the first of the season. He has stated in his book, p. 66, as I have before quoted, "if you want any thing done, you must do it yourself:" it will, therefore, be necessary to go about, purchase, and carry home, the household furniture, implements, &c.; and as it appears



by the statement that much live stock has been purchased, and will be required from the first starting, it will be necessary at once to provide food for them as early as possible, in order to guard against the inconvenience of being interrupted after the ploughing has commenced, as the season is so very short. It is no easy matter in the spring to procure hay, as all which was intended to be sold has been sent off during the good going.\* It, however, must be got; and, according to the custom of the country, you must go to purchase it and carry it home. By the statement made, there have been purchased four working cattle, one horse, and six cows, which must be kept in good condition,—the oxen and horse for constant work, and the cows to enable the owner to make up the sixty dollars' worth of butter and cheese which he has determined to sell in course of the season. There are also 20 breeding ewes. These will require a great quantity of hay and some corn. It is stated in p. 84, under date 6th May, that "grass grows but little, cattle live hard, working oxen eat much corn, sheep done lambing." Now, the milk-cows, and the sheep at lambing, must have a little

\* This is the term used to express the state of the road as to the practicability of travelling on the snow.

corn ; and having one horse, 16 cattle, and 20 sheep, to keep from 1st March to 1st June, and also having 32 swine purchased, it will require 15 to 16 tons of hay—but say only 12 tons—and 40 bushels of corn. This has been altogether overlooked in the statement, no provision whatever having been made for the stock.

It is now necessary to consider what work has to be done upon the farm, in ploughing, sowing, and planting, and what length of season there is to get that work done in.

I shall, as in other points, refer to Mr. Pickering's own experience in this matter ; and find that, at p. 80, under date 8th April, he says—" this week has been partly wet and cold, and partly fine and pleasant, sowing wheat with clover and Timothy grass on land that was ploughed last fall." This is the first field work of the season.

In page 86, under date 5th June, he says—" Finished planting potatoes."

Thus, therefore, betwixt 8th April and 5th June is the whole time in which must be finished, on this farm, ploughing, sowing, harrowing, and planting, the whole of the land which is to be in crop ; and taking his account of the crop, under head, " One

year's outgoings and expenses," as the basis upon which the calculation has to be made, I will take the different proportions of crop as therein stated, with one exception, that is, the 10 acres which he proposes to have girdled; my reasons for which I will state in the remarks which I have to make, when the account of the value of the proceeds has to be taken under consideration.

By referring to the account of one year's outgoings, there will be found, exclusive of the 10 acres to have been girdled,

10 acres wheat;

6 acres corn, first ploughing;

6 acres corn, second ploughing;

10 acres for pease;

4 acres for oats;

2 acres potatoes, &c. first ploughing;

2 acres potatoes, &c. second ploughing;

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40 acres of ploughing, supposing the 10 acres of wheat and the 10 acres of pease get only one furrow, although they would require two.

There are, then, 40 acres to be ploughed betwixt 8th April and 5th June (less than two months), besides all the other operations consequent upon sow-

ing and planting; and the whole working cattle may be said to be the one pair of oxen and the one pair of steers,—for the low-priced horse, bought for the waggon and riding, will have enough to do otherwise.

Now, supposing that it has been possible, betwixt the term of entry on the 1st March, and the beginning of field labour on the 8th April, to get the family, furniture, provender for cattle, utensils, &c. removed to the farm, so as to admit of the farm work going on without interruption, this is a very great deal of work to get through with. Taking it for granted, however, that it is possible to get it done, there then comes on the cleaning and furrowing up of six acres of Indian corn and two acres of green crop—in all, 8 acres—in a country where no women of any age ever work in the fields, and in which no hired labourer, for a few days only, is to be had, excepting in those cases in which you get the assistance of a neighbour. This is never a whole day's work, from the time lost in coming and going from and to his home, probably a considerable distance, although it occupies your time a whole day to repay it, and is the most expensive of all labour.

Before you have got your green crop sufficiently

cleaned and dressed, your hay is ready for mowing. By Mr. Pickering's account, p. 86, they were busy at it at Col. Talbot's in June, within a fortnight of the planting of potatoes; the wheat is stated, at p. 89, to have begun on the 22d July—by which time, without considerable strength of men and cattle, it is not possible to have had the hay all secured—and the pease and oats succeed very quickly; at p. 99, he states, that on the 16th September they were at the Indian corn cutting; and, at p. 102, taking up potatoes on the 8th October.

Thus, in five months from first breaking ground, the whole field operations for the whole year have to be begun and ended, and the whole of the crop secured against the effects of a Canadian winter, with the frost sometimes at more than 30 degrees below zero.

This it is which makes farming, to any extent, *impracticable* in Canada, and altogether impossible, without being subjected to the risk (very often very ruinous) of losing a great proportion of the crop, from not being able to get it secured in time; for the great heat of the summer brings it so very rapidly to maturity, indeed to over ripeness, *unless taken at once*, that a great deal of the grain is lost, and the hay rendered worthless.

Besides all the above work which has to be done, and which must be attended to very promptly, you have to attend, in this case, to a considerable stock of cattle, sheep, and swine, in a country in which, however little cattle and sheep may get in the woods, they will at all times be wandering, and very often going astray.

You have a great extent of fencing to keep up, and to keep it most substantially laid, as it is very difficult, indeed, to keep out cattle, particularly oxen; and unless the fences are what is termed "legal fences," that is, five feet high, and very securely fastened, no redress can be had for trespass; nor would it be possible to keep out your own cattle or pigs. The fences, therefore, require to be a great deal stronger in Canada than they are ever seen in Britain.

You have also to attend militia drill, and to perform a certain number of days' work on the public roads: and to both these duties every man, whether freeholder or hired labourer, has to submit, or pay a very heavy penalty. In cases where working cattle are kept, they also are employed: and both musters and road-work occur within the short period of the crop season.

All this time fuel and fence-poles have had to be

provided from the forest, and the quantity of each is very great. It must, therefore, appear evident, that from the whole work of the field having to be performed within five, or even six months—for which the farmer in Britain has generally eleven, and often twelve months—the power to be applied must be proportionally greater. Indeed, from the roughness of the surface, from stumps, and one interruption or another, and the want of roads, the power would for the time require to be at least double. Nor is there much cessation from the labour of men or cattle, there being (with so few exceptions as not to be worth taking notice of) no assistance to be got from machinery in thrashing, and indeed very little in cleaning the grain. Much of the time of the men is occupied in thrashing and cleaning; the quantity of fuel required is almost incredible; and the labour of chopping thick trees into short lengths, and then splitting them up, is very great, for it has all to be done with the axe. On a farm of any extent, too, the quantity of fence-rails wanted every year is great; and above all things, the clearing out of stumps, and the cutting down more trees every year, to get the benefit of new-burned land, is, upon every farm, excepting a few fine spots in the vici-

nity of Montreal, an unceasing labour, at all times and at all seasons. Indeed, there is no such thing as the work ever being *finished*—it is always, in every case, *behind*. The distance, too, to which, in general, any spare produce has to be drawn to a market, and the small quantity which can be taken at a time, is a very great drawback to the regular work ; and all that part of the management must be done by the owner making all these trips himself, however distant the market may be, or however small the quantity. As an instance of the difficulties to which the agriculturist is exposed in Canada, in matters on which there is generally very little trouble in Britain, Mr. Pickering, beginning at p. 129, gives an account of a journey in which he accompanied a farmer (a Squire, that is, a Justice of the Peace) in a voyage along the Canada coast of Lake Erie, to dispose of his butter and cheese, consisting of seven or eight hundredweight ; and after calling at several intermediate ports for six days, in course of which they had to go a distance of 130 miles, they were unable to dispose of it, and had to begin their journey back again, and leave it to be sold on commission. I mention this to shew how much the owner of a farm is under the



necessity of going himself great distances from home, and, therefore, the inconvenience of encreasing a farm in Canada, even to the extent of what would be considered a small farm in Britain.

I have extended these remarks so far that I must now bring them to a close, and state what number of men will, in my opinion, be necessary to hire for getting through with the work of the farm, purchased and stocked according to Mr. Pickering's estimate, and will take the most favourable view possible of the circumstances in which the purchaser may be placed as to his family.

Mr. Pickering, at p. 166, seems to consider the family to be composed of four or five persons. I will suppose it to consist of the father, mother, son (15 or 16 years of age), and one or two children, all healthy and accustomed to labour, the family being thus in a much more favourable state for settling than most new settlers are.

Allow the father to be constantly employed in superintending and assisting in the work of the cattle (his presence will be much wanted, for Mr. Pickering states, in p. 83, that ploughing among roots is rough work), performing the operations of sowing, and attending to the proper saving and hous-

ing of the crop, doing all the business which requires his going from the place (very often 12 or 15 miles to a blacksmith or cartwright), providing provisions, seed, stock, marketing of all kinds, going to the mill, &c.

The son to have the charge of the cattle, sheep, pigs, &c. (no easy matter where so many are to be kept), keeping the fences in order, and working with the hired labourers in the absence of the father (without which nothing, literally nothing, will be done, as the regular-working and very valuable agricultural labourers of Britain are not to be had there in one instance among five hundred), and at all times in which he can be wanted there, employed among the green crops.

Two hired men to be kept to work the two pair of oxen generally, mow, reap, and work at every other department, from the 1st March to the 1st November; and one during the winter, as it is absolutely necessary to keep an experienced man during the winter to provide fuel for next summer, and fence-poles, which are always wanted, and must be hauled in the course of the winter.

Also, unless the owner has a daughter able to assist the mother in cooking, washing, and mending

for so many people, milking the cows, attending the pigs, poultry, &c. a hired girl must be kept.

I will allow the father and son, out of the account of funds, only the common wages of hired labourers, and suppose that out of their wages the mother and young children are supported, in the same way as the families of labourers are in general, that is, reducing the family in point of expense to the state of the common hired labourer, and requiring out of the proceeds of the farm only board and common wages, to provide them in clothes, shoes, and other necessaries,—which is particularly requisite in this case, as it is supposed by Mr. Pickering that every thing is sold to make up money, even the very wool of the sheep (every fleece being sold), without leaving anything even for stockings or mits.

By this arrangement, the whole work of the farm is supposed to be done without hiring any additional help in hay or grain harvest.

I shall calculate the wages at the medium rate ascertained, as stated by Mr. Pickering, p. 202, or indeed lower, as I will charge the man, employed for eight months of the year, only at the same rate as would have been the case although he had been kept all winter. By charging the wages in this way, they will come much less than if additional hands

were to be employed during harvest only, besides the advantage of having them at command at all times, as will be seen by a reference to Mr. Pickering's book, where he says, in p. 202, that 6s. 3d. per day, besides provisions, is sometimes given to harvest men.

In making up the account of one year's outgoings, no extra charge will be made for ploughing, or any other operation, and the expense of girdling has not to be inserted.

In charging the expenses of board, I have to state, that where labourers are employed in cases in which it is not convenient for the employer to cook for them, the usual board wages is 9s. to 10s. per week, or, in cases where the employer can accommodate the labourer with lodging, if the engagement is for any considerable length of time, allow him at the rate of 6 dollars per month, with lodging and fuel. In making the present calculation, I allow only the lowest sum paid for mere subsistence, and allow no more for the owner and son.

It may appear that the amount for board is very great; but it must be taken into consideration, that in almost every case, on changing the country, there is also a complete change of diet. This is generally the case, even with Old-country people living there

by themselves; but whether that is the case or not, while by themselves, there must, of necessity, be a complete change whenever a hired man, or man working on the place in any way, is received in the house: there must be animal food twice-a-day, or the labourer will immediately take himself off. Oatmeal is very rarely tasted, and the baking of flour bread and cooking of pork must go on regularly; and although Mr. Pickering calculates upon selling 360 dollars' worth of pork the first year, there is not one in a hundred that has not to go to the store-keeper for pork from the States, for some years. As to the beef, it is generally carrion, and will not do for salting. This purchasing of provisions is one of the greatest banes of Canada.

The account for outgoings not already charged in former account will, therefore, stand thus:

	Dols.
Seed for 10 acres of wheat, after pease, . . . . .	9
Seed for 10 acres of pease, . . . . .	15
Seed for 4 acres of oats, . . . . .	3
Seed for 6 acres of Indian corn, . . . . .	0½
Seed for 2 acres potatoes, turnips, cabbages, &c. 16½	
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Carried forward, . . . . .	Dols. 44

Brought forward, . . . . .	Dols. 44
Hay, as stated before—12 tons, at 10 dollars per ton, . . . . .	120
Corn for cattle, horse, pigs, cows at calving, &c. —40 bushels, at $\frac{3}{4}$ dollar per bushel, . . . . .	30
Where there is so much “rough work,”—as Mr. Pickering, p. 83, very properly says of ploughing among roots,—there is unavoidably much tear and wear of utensils; and as he seems, from the prices at which he has charged the ploughs, and every thing else, to have his articles, like the Jersey waggon, half-worn, the expenses will be found a very serious matter. I will, however, put in the whole so low as £6:15s. including iron and every thing, . . . .	30
Salt,—Much salt is given to cattle and sheep. It will be seen, p. 75, that it is “used universally.” The price, as there stated, is 5 dollars per barrel: Say, in the whole year, 2 barrels, . . . . .	10
Wages.—One man for whole year at medium rate of wages, as per p. 202, £26:10s. . . .	114
One man for 8 months, at same rate, . . . . .	76
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Carried forward, . . . . .	Dols. 424

Brought forward, . . . . .	Dols. 424
One girl for a year, at 3 dollars, . . . . .	36
Owner's wages, same as common labourer, . . . . .	114
Son, or other lad, at 6 dollars per month, . . . . .	72
Board.—Three men, at 7s. currency per week, for a year, . . . . .	219
One man, 8 months, at 7s. . . . .	48
Young woman, at 1 dollar per week, . . . . .	52
Interest on 700 dollars of purchase-money, not paid, at 6 per cent, . . . . .	42
<hr/>	
Total of second account of outlays, . . . . .	Dols. 1007

REMARKS ON MR. PICKERING'S ACCOUNT OF THE  
VALUE OF PRODUCE OF FIRST YEAR'S CROP.

THE principal difference betwixt Mr. Pickering's statement and the one now made in opposition to it, is under this head ; and I shall take each item by itself as it occurs in his statement, inserting at length the articles which compose his very large amount of produce, make my observations on each article separately, and carry out into the money column the value of the produce which he can possibly have to be taken to market.

*First.*—Twenty acres of wheat, at 18 bushels per acre (sometimes 30), at  $\frac{1}{4}$  dollar (3s. 9d. currency) per bushel—270 dollars.

To this I object, first, that he supposes 10 acres to have been girdled, cleared of the small trees and underbrushed, prepared for the seed, and sown during the spring at which he takes possession of his farm.

This is altogether impossible. I have already stated, in my remarks as to the quantity of work which was to be done to make even the cleared land available for this year's crop, reasons from which, I trust, it will be plainly seen that it would be altogether absurd to attempt any thing else with such slender means, while it is not probable that the cattle can perform even that. But the plan he here proposes, to swell up the amount of produce, it is altogether impossible to put into execution.

At this season of the year, as will be seen by Mr. Pickering's book, p. 129, under date 23d February, "the sugar harvest now begins," that is, the sap is now flowing freely in the wood. Even although the time necessary for chopping down and collecting the small trees and underbrush was really to be expended at a season of the year when other more important matters call for the exertion of all hands



(at present particularly scarce, from there being, as yet, no newly-arrived Emigrants to be got), yet the heaps could not possibly be burnt. They are not only newly cut down, and of course unfit for burning at any season, but they are cut down when full of sap. Even on the supposition that they could, as if by magic, be got off the ground,—filled as it is with cradle heaps, and, as he mentions himself in p. 83, very rough,—it has to be ploughed twice with two yokes of strong oxen before it can receive the seed, and requires a very great deal of labour and time to ameliorate, as, where the large trees are not cut down, the great collection of fresh and decayed (but wet) vegetable matter, which has lain for ages, cannot be got consumed easily unless there is a good “burn.”

Indeed, the application of all the power employed upon the farm would not enable him to get these 10 acres into a fit state for receiving the seed. Even were the surface cleared, it would be impossible to get the land ploughed for frost. He states at p. 129, under date 25th March—“Ice off the Lake, frost out of the ground, snow all gone, except a small remnant drifted on the north side of the ravines.” Now, if it is only out of the cleared lands

on the 25th March, it could not be out of the ground in the *woods* for at least a fortnight afterwards, before which time the wheat would require to have been sown. The supposition of attempting to put such a scheme in practice is, indeed, a most glaring absurdity; and shews clearly the desperate attempts he makes to grasp at produce to take to market, when none can in reason be looked for. There will, therefore, be only the produce of 10 acres of wheat to be calculated upon. Wheat he reckons at three-fourths of a dollar per bushel. I reckon it at 2s. 6½d.: first, because, at p. 113, he gives that as the current price himself, even at Ancaster, a place which, in the next page, he describes as "a large, thriving, handsome village, with smart buildings, good houses, two distilleries, a brewhouse, and a large mill": secondly, because it will be seen, at p. 84, that the price at which 200 bushels of wheat, sent to the still, was sold, or rather bartered, was 350 gallons of whisky, that again had to be sold; and, calculating it at the price given by himself in p. 111, would not nett so much as he quotes as the price at Ancaster: thirdly, because 2s. 6½d. is fully as high as the price at which wheat is generally taken in at the stores even for store pay. During the winter of

1834-5, it was 2s. 6d. per bushel of 60lb. delivered at the store.

Dols.

The amount to be entered for wheat crop will, therefore, be—10 acres, 180 bushels, at 2s. 6½d.. .91½

*Second.*—Ten acres of clover seed, at 2 bushels per acre, and 7 dollars per bushel.

He had no reason to expect that this crop was sown by the previous occupant at all; or if sown, that the land was in such a state as to raise such a valuable crop of clover seed. He is very candid, however; for he acknowledges, in p. 164, that he only "*supposes* the seed might have been sown;" and it must be seen whether he had any good reason for making this supposition. His own narrative furnishes ground sufficient for forming an opinion upon. At p. 65, after stating that "the mode of cropping in general practice is too deteriorating for any soil," he continues— "Rye, corn, wheat, and oats continually, with only a few pease, and a *little clover* intervening, *and then but seldom*. When clover is sown, it is too often *on the ground in a bad state*, lying

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Carried forward, . . . . . Dols. 91½

Brought forward,.....Dols. 91½

two or three years, and becoming full of grass and rubbish." Again, p. 83—"Clover, even by itself, answers admirably *on a clear tilth*, and will last well in the ground for six, seven, or more years, *yet it is not sown by one farmer in half-a-dozen* in this western part of the province; *even Col. Talbot, I am told, never had any but once before*, which was suffered to stand till dead ripe (like all grass here) before cutting, when the cattle would not eat it, and it therefore was condemned."

At p. 90, under date 12th August, he says—"Cutting a second crop of clover, about 23 cwt. per acre. It would have been an excellent crop for seed, it was so well headed." Now, when such a fine crop occurred so very a-propos while he was manager, why not save it for seed?

Again, p. 80, date 8th April—"Sowing spring wheat with clover and *timothy grass*."

From these few extracts it must be seen that there is very little clover sown, and what little there is, is generally along with timothy grass;

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Carried forward,.....Dols. 91½

Brought forward, . . . . . Dols. 91½

and as timothy is not ready for mowing when the first crop of clover would have to be cut to make way for the second, it is clear that the clover is not meant for seed.

When he had the management of Col. Talbot's very extensive farm, he did not find that, although a good crop for seed, it was worth the saving: and finally, on the farm which he supposes to have been purchased, he prepares no land, nor sows any clover to bring in money next year, which he ought to have done had he conceived it to be so profitable as he asserts. He has, therefore, *no ground whatever to "suppose" that there were ten acres of clover sown for his benefit the previous year*, on a farm in such a miserable condition, that the inhabitants, live and dead stock, crop, and every thing, was contained in one "log-house or barn."

For these reasons I object altogether to his taking credit for the amount of 180 dollars on the produce of a crop which he not only did not sow, but which was never even said to have been

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Carried forward, . . . . . Dols. 91½

Brought forward,.....Dols.  $91\frac{1}{2}$   
 sown, for he merely *supposes* it. Such suppositions are worse than absurd in a matter of so much importance; and give another proof of his desire to “gather where he has not strawed.”

*Third.*—Six acres of Indian corn, 25 bushels per acre—150 bushels at  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar, ..... 75

I shall take this as he states it, remarking only, that it is very unlikely that such a farm would have so much land prepared for Indian corn the year before; and, if not prepared before, there will be much attention required, and much labour throughout the season. If the land has not been newly burnt, it will have to be manured: now, supposing there is manure on the farm, it is not to be expected that so much as six acres could be managed in one season.

*Fourth.*—Thirty store pigs, for fattening next season.

I admit that the two sows may, in the course of the whole year, have thirty pigs, reckoning

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Carried forward,.....Dols.  $166\frac{1}{2}$

Brought forward, . . . . . Dols. 166½

both the litters of both the sows; but as the sows were bought in at 13s. 6d. each in the spring, it is barely possible that they can have so many pigs the next spring; and if so, the greater part of them must be newly farrowed. Taking it for granted, however, that they have had that number, they cannot be sold off the farm, but must be kept for store pigs throughout the next winter, and therefore no money has to be given credit for.

*Fifth.*—Thirty fat pigs, “weighing at least 200 lbs.” or one barrel—30 barrels at 12 dollars per barrel.

He has here, as in the case of the wheat from the land to have been girdled in the spring, been a year too soon in driving his hogs to market. They were only young pigs at a dollar each in the beginning of summer; and in the fall or winter they were, although so young, sprung up so as to have become at once large hogs, fit for barrelling, at least 200 lbs. each.

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Carried forward, . . . . . Dols. 166½

Brought forward,.....Dols. 166½

He states in a note, p. 165, that "five bushels of Indian corn or pease will fatten a fresh store hog, or keep one through the winter. They get their living in the woods and pastures during the summer; also during the winter, when nuts are plentiful, which generally happens three years out of five."

Now this chance of something extra is all very good; but if stock is kept for profit certain food must be provided, or a loss must ensue instead of a profit. These thirty hogs, which were bought at a dollar in the beginning of summer, must be kept as *store pigs only* the first winter, to prepare them for fattening next fall, and will after that only be fit for killing for barrelling. Some of them may, in the course of the winter, have been made fat for killing in the spring for household use, but for barrelling pork none, more particularly as all the Indian corn is considered as sold; and if the pease have been well got, only a part of the crop even of them is to be got for any of the stock, except the sheep,—

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Carried forward,.....Dols. 166½



Brought forward,.....Dols. 166½

as it is recommended, p. 164, that if the pease are “well got, they should be *lightly thrashed*, and given to the sheep.” Indeed he has allowed no food to fatten with.

To show how little dependence can be had upon feeding pigs without prepared food, an instance may be had from himself, p. 72, where he says—“Cut the corn about the 20th September, which was much eaten by the racoons and black squirrels, which are extraordinarily numerous, troublesome, and destructive, *from the scarcity of nuts and mast in the woods.*”

Indeed, I cannot conceive how he can even suppose he is to get his pig stock kept alive (having, this winter, no less than 62 of them), without more potatoes, turnips, or cabbages, than such as he states himself, in p. 165, to be intended “chiefly for the house.”

It will be seen, p. 71, under date 16th August, that Col. Talbot’s fattening for the season was 42 hogs, filling 35 barrels, or 166 lbs. each hog, fed off early in the season (and, therefore, of

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Carried forward,.....Dols. 166½

Brought forward, . . . . . Dols. 166½

course, kept over the last winter as store pigs); and yet he supposes that his, which were bought, after he purchased his farm, at 5s. have increased to at least 200 lbs.

Colonel Talbot's stock, p. 71, consisted of 111 head of cattle, 4 horses, and 150 sheep. He has a great farm, and would, of course, have his pig stock in proportion. His produce on such an extensive farm (with last year's crop of course) would be consumed, as far as required, by his stock, and his fattening of pork is 35 barrels. Mr. Pickering the first year, off his farm, without having any food provided until he has raised it off the ground in the fall, and merely by purchasing (same year) 30 sucking pigs, supposes he can take to market 30 barrels of fat pork. Again, the medium price of pork, as stated by himself, p. 186, is 4¼ cents per lb. —therefore 9½ dollars for 200. Yet he takes credit for his pork at 12 dollars, not making any allowance whatever for salt, barrel, or anything else.

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Carried forward, . . . . . Dols. 166½

Brought forward,.....Dols. 166½

The supposition of a sale of barrelled pork to to the amount of 360 dollars is not only absurd—it is grossly false.

*Sixth.*—Six cows, butter and cheese for summer,..... 60

*Seventh.*—A yoke of fat oxen, 60 dollars (besides a cow or two killed for the use of the house).

I object to this altogether. The oxen are no produce of the farm: they were bought as the working cattle of the farm during the current year, and the cost charged as such. They have been hard worked all year, and are still required for every-day use.

How is the work of the farm to be got done if they are sold? Even had the steers been able to replace them (which is impossible), yet there is nothing to replace the steers, and the work must stand. If the cows are killed, what is to replace them? Is it the calves and heifers, which were bought, during the year, at 22s. 6d.?

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Carried forward,.....Dols. 226½

Brought forward,.....Dols. 226½

What was there to fatten the oxen and cows?  
The oxen are hard wrought, and the cows milked  
all year; and now, although the corn which  
should have been given to them is sold, they  
must be considered to be fat, and the oxen which  
cost 45 dollars, are now to be sold as produce  
at 60 dollars!

*Eighth.*—Twenty lambs, 20 dollars—20 fleeces  
at a dollar. Allow the whole, ..... 40

*Ninth.*—Geese, feathers, eggs, fowls, &c. .... 10

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Produce,.....Dols. 276½

*Note.*—I have entered the returns under the third,  
sixth, eighth, and ninth heads, merely for brevity,  
as not so objectionable as the clover seed. There  
might have been probably one-fourth part of the  
amount realized.

THE ACCOUNT WILL NOW STAND THUS :

	Dols.
Amount of first or permanent outlay for farm and stocking, .....	967
Amount of one year's outgoings and expenses,	1007
Total outlay, .....	1974
Amount of produce sold, ..	276½
Expenditure above income,..	Dols. 1697½

From this excess of expenditure above sales  
of produce, deduct capital of £200 sterling,  
with which the expenses have been paid as  
far as it would go, ..... 888½

The purchaser is now in debt to the store-  
keeper (the only banker he can have), Dols. 809

Having now brought the Account to a close, it  
may be proper to take a review of the situation in  
which the purchaser is now placed; and it will be  
found he is in very different circumstances, indeed,  
from what he was a year ago, when he had his £200  
sterling in his pocket.

He has not only incurred a debt of 809 dollars, in  
a strange country where he will find no friend, but  
he has a stock of cattle, swine, &c. on hand, not in  
a state for taking to market without an enormous  
loss. Having sold all his wheat and all his Indian

corn, he has nothing either for the necessary food of his own family, or for his working cattle, and the enormous stock of pigs which he has on hand. In any country it is ruinous to be without food for cattle, but in Canada it is particularly so. If a man wants provisions for himself and cannot get them otherwise, he can go to work for another, where he can always procure food. Not so with stock: for that there is neither assistance nor compassion. The person who sold him the land comes to demand the one hundred dollars, due at the expiry of the year, along with the interest, which is stated in the account as paid. The purchaser has only one means of relief: he must sell off his stock (at whatever price it will bring) for cash, to prevent an execution from being put on the house. Supposing he does so, and has got over the demand made by the seller, he has still to go to the storekeeper for supplies. The answer then is ready,—“No: you cannot give me a mortgage on your property, because you have not got a deed of it. You have had to sell your stock at a ruinous season; you can have no more supplies; and if I am not immediately paid I must sue you.” This is the situation in which the man inevitably would be placed; and, instead of having 200 dollars in his pocket of profit, the seller of the farm would

quickly have possession of it again,—as is the case in thousands of instances which every day occur. Indeed, many proprietors, by getting unwary Emigrants to purchase in that way, have got payments in part half-a-dozen times over; got the poor Emigrant to improve more of it; and, when he could squeeze no more money out of him, foreclose the mortgage, and oust him without a shilling. It may be said, surely this is not the case with every Emigrant who purchases land in this way. I would answer, that a very great proportion of those who purchase at once, without being well acquainted with the country, are soon reduced to a very helpless state. Indeed, instead of an Emigrant benefiting by following the plan proposed by Mr. Pickering in this case in question, I must say the following up of it must inevitably be attended with ruin.

In the first place, £200 is by far too small a sum to attempt such an undertaking with; and in the next place, the attempt here made to grasp at a great amount of produce, to take to market the first year, is doubly ruinous. In this case, it is, indeed, easy to see the absurdity of the calculations made, because, in order to make up a large value of produce, Mr. Pickering supposes the seed for crops profitable

to him has, by chance, been sown before he purchased the land, although he acknowledges that that was not even alleged, and his own writings afford proof that it is not to be expected. A stranger to the country might, by being over-credulous, be led to believe that the land might be prepared, even in the spring, to have a crop of grain growing where, a few weeks before, it was thickly covered with trees; but if at all acquainted with the feeding of stock, he will be startled at the idea of selling 360 dollars' worth of fat pork off a farm of 70 imperial acres, a great part of which is in grass; and particularly so, when he sees that the Indian corn (the food with which stock is generally fattened) has been sold off, and that the only thing left for such a stock of all kinds is a parcel of half-thrashed pease to scramble about. Still more will he wonder when he sees that the very oxen out of the plough are sold to make up a bill of sales—the cows eaten before there are any young ones to replace them—the whole of the lambs sold off, without leaving any to keep up the stock—and the wool sold without leaving so much as worsted to mend stockings for the family. These absurdities may open the eyes of any person who will, for a moment, reflect on the statement.



## LETTER III.

IN continuation of the plan which I have adopted, I have now to enter upon Mr. Adam Fergusson of Woodhill's statements in favour of Canada, contained in his Notes upon a First, and also upon a Second Visit to America,—the former in 1831, for the purpose of procuring information on the subject of Emigration; and the latter in 1833, when he went over, with the greater part of a fine family, to settle in Upper Canada, where he now possesses a very considerable extent of forest land.

In taking up my pen to make any remarks of my own in any way at variance with Mr. Fergusson's opinion, and more particularly to "disprove particular statements" and averments made by that gentleman, I feel it to be a most unpleasant task indeed. When I first wrote my small pamphlet upon Emigration, I felt so very unwilling to express my sentiments with respect to his publications, that

I refrained from taking any notice of them at all, although they had, from Mr. Fergusson's very great respectability as a country gentleman, and as one of the Directors of the Highland Society of Scotland, obtained, through the public prints all over the United Kingdom, a degree of publicity among people of every rank, and carried, along with his name, a weight, much greater than all the books, essays, and advertisements, which ever had been written upon the subject put together; and the effect in inducing Emigration, more particularly among the most respectable class of Emigrants who have gone out, has been proportionally great.

From feelings of respect towards the Woodhill family which I had long entertained, I was very much averse from writing upon a subject upon which I found I could not enter at all, without writing in direct opposition to the conclusions drawn by Mr. Fergusson from what he learned from others, and to the correctness of the calculations given by him, as far as these relate to Canada.

Circumstances, however, have since occurred, which render it, I may say, imperative upon me to advert to his writings; and although nothing contained in these can in any way lessen that personal

respect which I ever entertain towards him, yet I find it necessary to show, and will have no difficulty in proving, that he is most egregiously in error in the statements which he has submitted to the public. These statements are so very erroneous, that it can only be accounted for by supposing that he has, in the hurry of writing his Notes, inadvertently inserted the calculations of others, while yet in ignorance of the subject himself. Indeed, it is clear that Mr. Fergusson's great error has been in writing with too much confidence, before he had yet had an opportunity of judging from experience, and before he had yet been prepared for the gross misrepresentations which are so generally made in that country by parties interested, some of whom are to be found in almost every company.

In his first visit he passed through a great extent of territory, both in the States and British America, with great rapidity, during the summer of 1831, having only been a few months in America altogether—never remaining so long in one place as to enable him to form an opinion of his own, but depending wholly upon reports made by parties who were altogether interested in inducing Emigrants to go out; and on his next visit, he wrote his second

book, confirmatory of his first, a few weeks after his arrival in Canada (having only arrived on the 16th September, 1833, and written his second "Notes" in October, same year), before he had yet been a winter in the country—had any time for forming an opinion of his own—or had even taken possession of the wilderness lands, referring to which he has more particularly given his detailed statements. He has, therefore, like most strangers, been grossly deceived by trusting to the misrepresentations of others, and to his having been too facile in believing these statements. I consider it to be owing to this that he has so much committed himself in submitting them to the public.

For the information of those who may not have the original at hand, I insert (as in the case of Mr. Pickering) the statement given by Mr. Fergusson, to which I allude particularly in my remarks, and which refers to his property of Nichol, in Upper Canada.

**MR. FERGUSSON'S STATEMENT.**

"In reference to the capabilities of N offer with some confidence the following tions.

" With a capital of £500 sterling, which is equal to £600 currency, a man may purchase and improve 200 acres of wild land in Nichol.

## FIRST YEAR.

The purchase-money of 200 acres, at 4 dollars per acre,

or £1 currency per acre,.....	£200	0	0
A log-house, .....	50	0	0
Some furniture for log-house,.....	20	0	0
Barn, including stable and cow-house, .....	50	0	0
Household and other expenses till after harvest, ....	30	0	0
Clear, fence, and sow 50 acres with wheat, at £4 per acre,.....	200	0	0
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	£550	0	0

On the 50 acres of wheat he will have 25 bushels per

acre, which, at 4s. 6d. per bushel,.....	£281	5	0
Deduct expense of harvesting, .....	£35	5	0
Household and other expenses, .....	20	0	0

Clears

BY

YEAR IN

THE MONTH,

----

1862

Added to

This year he has the original 50 acres and the 37½  
cleared this season all in wheat, the seed for the 50  
acres to be debited against the ensuing crop.

87½ acres, at 25 bushels at 4s. 6d.....	£492	3	9
Expense of harvesting, &c.....	£61	10	5
Seed as above for 50 acres, at 1 bushel per acre, at 4s. 6d. ....	11	5	0
Household and other expenses, .....	39	8	4
		<u>112</u>	<u>3 9</u>
Clears the second year,	£380	0	0

## THIRD YEAR.

All having been hitherto done by contract, there has now to be charged the expense of stocking the farm, and servants' wages and board, .....	£285	0	0
Wheat seed for 87½ acres, at 1 bushel per acre, at 4s. 6d.....	19	3	9
Grass seed for 25 acres, at 3s. per acre, .....	3	15	0
Assistance during harvest, .....	20	0	0
Household and other expenses, .....	52	1	3
		<u>£380</u>	<u>0 0</u>

Has the same crop as last year, but not at so much  
expense in thrashing, &c. his own servants assisting:

87½ acres in wheat,.....	£492	3	9
Assistance thrashing, &c. ....	£35	0	0
Household and other expenses, .....	37	3	9
		<u>72</u>	<u>3 9</u>
Clears this year,	£420	0	0

## FOURTH YEAR.

He clears 62½ acres more, making in all 150 acres  
cleared, which is sufficient on a farm of 200 acres.

He this year plants some potatoes, sows turnips, &c.

on that part of the 50 acres first cleared not in grass.

To clear, fence, and sow $62\frac{1}{2}$ acres, .....	£250	0	0
Erects a thrashing-machine, .....	80	0	0
Builds some houses for feeding stock, .....	20	0	0
Household and other expenses, .....	30	0	0
Sundry improvements about the house, &c. ....	40	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£420	0	0

Has this year the  $37\frac{1}{2}$  acres formerly cleared,  
and the  $62\frac{1}{2}$  cleared this year,

In wheat,..... 100 acres at same rate, .....	£562	10	0
The other 50 acres, valued at .....	120	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£682	10	0

Deduct for household, harvest, and other expenses, .. 82 10 0

At the end of the fourth year he has his farm paid for,  
stocked, and £600 currency in his pocket, ..... £600 0 0

The above is Mr. Fergusson's Statement of Expense and Returns; and I shall, in my next Letter, proceed to state my objections to it.

## LETTER IV.

IN order to shew my reasons for differing so much from Mr. Fergusson in my view of the matter, I will arrange what I have to say under the following heads or parts :

*First*—Impossibility of reaping the crops during the years in which he assumes them to be available, and consequent want of funds to carry on improvements.

*Second*—Impossibility of dispensing with horses and work oxen, as he supposes.

*Third*—Want of sufficient houses.

*Fourth*—Inadequacy of allowances made by him under every head of charge.

*Fifth*—Too large a quantity of produce expected, and calculated at too high a price.



*Sixth*—Estimate of outlay necessary to follow up Mr. Fergusson's plan. And,

*Seventh*—State of the farm after the fourth crop has been taken off.

*First*.—Mr. Fergusson, in intimating the value of the proceeds of the farm, reckons upon obtaining a crop of wheat the first year. This is altogether impossible; and I shall proceed to shew that no wheat can, under any circumstances, be raised from woodlands until the second year at soonest.

I beg leave to refer the reader to page 57 of this publication, for reasons which I have there given to shew the impracticability of obtaining a crop the first year, even where the trees are only girdled, without being cut. That argument will apply, not only equally well, but even with more weight, to Mr. Fergusson's operations; because he goes on the supposition that the land is to be what he calls "cleared,"—that is, so far so, as that the upper part of the tree is to be cut down and burnt off. If I have shewn before that it is impracticable to get even the small trees, bushes, and wet vegetable remains (in all stages of decay), sufficiently destroyed

by fire in the spring to admit of procuring a crop of wheat that year, it will be at once seen that it is much more so to get the trunks of green trees consumed.

I will, however, call in proofs from other sources, to shew how different the case is in practice from that now stated by Mr. Fergusson.

1st, A Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to examine into, and make strict inquiry upon, the subject of Emigration, in 1827, made a Report of their proceedings, from which is procured the following information.

Government had, in 1825, appointed the Hon. Mr. P. Robinson to take charge of the transport from the mother country, conveyance from Quebec, and settlement in Upper Canada, of a large body of Irish Emigrants, to be taken out and settled at the expense of government, for the purpose of ascertaining at what expense, and with what success, Emigration could be carried on if conducted under the management of gentlemen well acquainted with Canada, and in every respect qualified for such an undertaking, and capable of directing the operations of the Emigrants, when located, in such a way as to enable

them to raise provisions for themselves as quickly as possible—rations being allowed them by Government, from the time of settlement in July 1825, to 24th November 1826, from which time they were left to shift for themselves. Having had every requisite for building and keeping in order their wooden houses, cooking utensils, implements of husbandry, seed for their first crops, and a cow to each head of a family, and having also got rations for 16 months, they had that time to prepare for providing for themselves. The following Abstract from this official Account, extracted from the Third Report, published by order of the Committee, 29th June, 1827, shews the result of the labours of the Emigrants, and throws more light upon the subject of settling forest lands than any other document which has ever been submitted to the public. Having been made up by a gentleman who has ever been anxious to increase Emigration, it must be taken as giving the account in at least as favourable colours as the case would, by any possibility, admit of.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF STATE OF IMPROVEMENTS made by IRISH EMIGRANTS settled by Mr. P. ROBINSON in UPPER CANADA in 1825, up to 24th November, 1826,—being about 16 months after arrival on Lake Ontario.

No. of Townships.	No. of Locations.	No. of Inhabitants.	Acres cleared.	Produce raised this Year.			Wheat sown this fall.	Maple Sugar made.	Stock purchased by themselves.		
				Potato.	Turnip.	In. Corn.			Oxen.	Cows.	Hogs.
11	415	1845	1386½	Bush. 67,799	Bush. 25,623	Bush. 10,438½	Bush. 363½	Lbs. 9067	40	80	166

In Mr. Robinson's evidence (No. 3602), he says, the Emigrants "have been industrious and well conducted; and that they have cleared and cultivated as great a portion of their land as could be expected."

Mr. Robinson was appointed by Government in consequence of his being, from his intimate acquaintance with Upper Canada, considered a proper person to conduct and superintend the settling of such a large body with every possible advantage. He even had the selection of the Emigrants in Ireland, out of a much greater number of applicants; and having such a choice, he of course selected those best adapted for making the experiment. He conducted them with every possible care to the lands appropriated for them, provided them with every thing necessary, and set them to work at their improvements on the most approved plan. Now it will be seen by the above extract, that although, in the autumn of the *second* year, the settlers had "potatoes, turnips, and Indian corn," of their own raising, they had not one bushel of wheat, nor even of oats. An account is given of the quantity of wheat "sown this fall" (1826), the fall of the second year; so that they would only come to handle their first crop of wheat in the *third* year.

If, therefore, Mr. Robinson—a gentleman of such great experience, with the command of the labour of so many as upwards of 400 able-bodied men—finds it impossible, or even say inadvisable, to have wheat

sown sooner than the second year of settling in the woods—even with the simple small log-hut which was the humble dwelling of the labouring Emigrant, and shelter for his cow—how can Mr. Fergusson suppose that a settler, so far removed from a peopled country as Nichol by his own account is, is to have, even in the first year, erected his house and barns, cleared 50 acres, and got hold of and sold a crop of 1250 bushels of wheat?

2d, I will, however, as I did in my remarks on Mr. Pickering's statement, seek my proof from Mr. Fergusson's own writings. In p. 367 (First Visit), he says, in giving an account of the mode of conducting the operation of clearing—"They cut the wood in the fall of the year, or perhaps in the winter time." This operation cannot be performed until the timber is sufficiently dried by the summer sun, and must have good weather to facilitate the burning even then, or it cannot be sufficiently burnt.

"The brushwood and logs being dragged together by his (the settler's) steers, are burnt. The stumps are left so high, that you would think, at a distance, they were so many men standing among the corn." "This being done, the *next fall he sows his wheat among the stumps.*" "These stumps thus left are

very troublesome till he gets them out, which cannot be easily done." "Hardwood stumps require eight or ten years to rot, and those of pine considerably more." "This is the common way of going to work." A little farther on, he says, the settler on new land is "without means of subsistence for 18 months at least on his farm, before he gets the produce of his labour." From this it appears clearly that the crop is only got at the *expiry* of the second year after the wood is cut down.

3d, There is an Agricultural Society, established for the purpose of promoting the improvement of lands, and agricultural objects in general, in Canada. In Mr. Fergusson's first book, p. 373, will be found among the premiums to be awarded the following: "No. 26.—To the person who shall raise on *new* land, which was in standing wood, and was cleared, and was brought into cultivation in the *eighteen months* preceding, the best crop of wheat, of 4 arpints, 15 dollars.—Best oats, same conditions, 10 dollars.—Also, for rye."

From these extracts it will be seen, that 18 months, or at all events part of two different years, is required for raising a crop of grain from woodlands.

Indeed, within no period of 18 months can the wood possibly be cut down, burnt off, and the land sown, so as to have a crop of wheat ripened, excepting that period which will include February, or at latest, March of the first year; that is, to have the wood cut down before the sap gets up, burnt in the summer or fall, and then sown before winter.

4th, Mr. Fergusson (in his writings in *Agricultural Journal*) gives the following note of his observations on Upper Canada, under date Saturday, 15th May, 1831,—“The forest is here thin, probably not having more than forty or fifty old oaks upon an acre, and not requiring these to be destroyed, it being quite possible to guide the plough through the intervals. Walter Smith was busy with his pair of oxen preparing the land for wheat, *of which he expected to have thirty acres sown in autumn.*” Now, if Walter Smith (who, it appears by same paper, was newly entered on his farm), was on the 15th May, which may be considered the beginning of the season there, only to sow wheat in the autumn upon land which was, from the thinness of the trees, found in a fit state for admitting the plough at once, how can Mr. Fergusson ever suppose that his land, which has to be cleared of heavy timber, is to produce a



crop before the time that Smith's land, so much more favourably situated, can have been fit for receiving the seed, to have a crop the first year?

5th, Extract from Library of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge—Backwoods of Canada, p. 132: “Upper Canada, 20th Nov. 1832.—The working season is very short, on account of the length of time the frost remains on the ground. With the exception of chopping trees, very little can be done. Those that understand the proper management of uncleared land, usually underbrush (that is, usually cut down all the small timbers and brushwood) while the leaf is yet on them: this is piled in heaps, and the wind-fallen trees are chopped through in lengths, to be chopped up in spring with the winter's chopping. The latter end of the summer and autumn are the best seasons for this work. The leaves then become quite dry and sear, and greatly assist in the important business of burning off the heavy timbers.

“Another reason is, that when the snow has fallen to some depth, the light timbers cannot be cut close to the ground, or the dead branches, and other incumbrances, collected and thrown on the heap.

“We shall have about three acres ready for spring crops, provided we get a good burning of that which

is already chopped near the site of the house. This will be sown with *oats, pumpkins, Indian corn, and potatoes*—the other ten acres will be ready for putting in a crop of *wheat*—so you see it will be a long time before we reap a harvest. *We could not even get in spring wheat early enough to come to perfection this year.*"

These five extracts—three of them from Mr. Fergusson's own writings, one from an official document which cannot be controverted, and the fifth from a publication by far too favourable towards encouraging Emigration, so far as that subject has to be treated of in reference to Scotland and England—will, I trust, sufficiently prove the absurdity of supposing that a crop of wheat can be raised from wilderness land, and taken to market, in the same year upon which a settler enters, at whatever period of the year he may do so.

The importance of this difference of time is immensely great to the settler, who is led by Mr. Fergusson's estimate to expect a great crop of wheat the first year. It is not only a total loss of the amount of the year's crop, as it would affect a man of large capital, and of being for every following year deprived of that income which he was led to

expect each successive year, but it is the want of the money with which the stranger had been led to expect he could carry on his operations; for Mr. Fergusson has pointed out how he is to apply the proceeds, to enable him to get on to the attainment of larger sums next year. These proceeds (even any part of them) are not forthcoming—the supplies which, by Mr. Fergusson's statement, were to be managed so very economically and so very profitably, are vanished altogether—and this want of returns until another year, affects, in every instance through the course of years, the funds which, by the statement so given, were, from the proceeds of the previous crop, to have been provided for the outlay of the following year, and upon which, in succession, every other crop depended. The outlays must continue, or the progress of the farm stops—there is nothing to continue them with—and the speculation is knocked on the head.

*Second Objection.*—IMPOSSIBILITY OF DISPENSING  
WITH HORSES AND WORK OXEN.

I cannot conceive how it could, for one moment, be supposed that working cattle can be dispensed with from the very outset of the arduous undertak-

ing of removing a family to a forest, at a distance from all other settlers, carrying provisions for them, opening a space for buildings, constructing houses, converting the wilderness into a farm, supposed from the first year to yield a large crop of wheat, and carrying that crop of grain to a distant market.

Mr. Fergusson, and his friend, W—, in setting out (p. 33, Second Visit) from Toronto to examine the lands in question on the 4th October, the finest season in the year for such an excursion, found it necessary to hire, at 15s. per day, a waggon, with a pair of excellent nags, and to engage as driver an intelligent respectable farmer to whom they belonged. On the 5th October, after having been benighted, and fatigued with the jolting, they arrived at Guelph. On the 6th they found it necessary, as their route lay through "a wild and thinly-settled tract," to leave the waggon and adopt the saddles they had brought for the purpose. It was necessary, however, to procure an additional nag; and Mr. F. sallied forth in quest of an old acquaintance, who, however, could not supply his wants, but who recommended him to a second party, the second transferred him to a third, by whom they were introduced to a fourth, and by him they were furnished with a pony

at 3s. sterling (3s. 7d. currency) per day. The first part of this day's ride was "through several farms which seemed to have been abandoned to a wilderness of thistles." They had been misled this day by erroneous directions; but in the afternoon procured another guide—were soon immersed in the woods—and, after travelling 12 miles "through bush and brake," arrived at the house of a Mr. Fraser, where they remained all night; and on the 7th October, their host accompanied them to the object of their visit, distant seven miles.

An idea of the nature of the country may be formed from the following extract:—"The only trace of a road consisted in 'blazes,' or chips taken from the bark of the trees. Occasionally some immense overthrown trunk blocked up the only passage, and we had nothing for it then but a '*sporting leap*;' a performance which the Canadian pony took his own method of executing, somewhat to the discomposure of his rider (W—), as it more nearly resembled the feats of grimalkin than any equestrian movement we had ever seen." Thus, then, after four days' travelling (the last two days of which from Guelph to Nichol), with the assistance of three intelligent guides, and with three hired horses, Mr.

Fergusson and his friend get themselves conveyed to the land on which it is intended to make a location.

In 'here giving a description of the journey to Nichol, from Mr. Fergusson's own "Notes," I am very far from insinuating that his lands are either ill adapted for settling upon, or that the difficulty of reaching them is greater than those to be met with in general. That those places which are best adapted for settling upon, from richness of soil, and other advantages, are often placed at a much greater distance in the forest, and still preferred by many intelligent settlers, is unquestionable; and the difficulties of settling at Nichol are probably not so great as have had to be encountered in the settling of many of what are now the best situations in Canada.

That, however, does not make the smallest difference in estimating the expense of first settling, which is the question now under consideration; and to what has a reference to the amount of that alone, and the value of the crops which it is presumed by him may be raised at the outset, and forced into a distant market, in order to provide funds for extending to such a length as Mr. Fergusson proposes

the same system, must be confined the inquiry, in order to ascertain whether his belief in the practicability of such a scheme be well founded ;—and that part of the inquiry just now is, Whether this settlement, under such circumstances, can be effected without horses or oxen? I consider it to be impossible.

Mr. Fergusson and his friend, at the finest season of the year for travelling, and unencumbered with any luggage, in the course of four days' travelling from Toronto—from which place only a settler can be supplied with labourers—and in two days' from Guelph—the nearest place at which he can procure any thing from a store—succeed, at a great expense, and with much friendly assistance from settlers, in reaching, for the first time, that spot in the wilderness upon which a settlement is to be effected ; and in this journey three horses were found to be requisite. This expense for hiring, and this gratuitous assistance from other settlers, cannot last long ; and the new settler must, in every respect, provide for his own wants. How is he to get the other materials for the buildings, besides wood, conveyed from Guelph, from which place it took himself two days to reach Nichol? How is he to get provisions, tools,

and implements, carried to the settlement? How is he to get seed for the land? How is he to get carried through the woods cooking utensils, bedding, and furniture? How is that frequent intercourse to be kept up, at all seasons of the year, which must necessarily be held with other places from which the many wants, in such an undertaking, must be supplied? How is the crop to be carried from the field to the barn or barnyard? How or by what plan is the immense quantity of grain to be sold, to be carried to market? How is the land to be ploughed for a second crop? or rather, in a word, what is the use of horses and working oxen in other agricultural countries, in which there are not to be found the twentieth part of the difficulties which are to be found in the woods?

Mr. Fergusson has, in the year after he has supposed the first crop to have been delivered at market, made allowance for purchasing one yoke of oxen for first stock; but it is not worth reckoning upon as any thing towards cultivating the land, or using in any way off the place: it would be no more than sufficient for keeping the people in fuel. The quantity of wheat which he proposes to sell of that second crop is 2,187½ bushels, and he has 87½ acres



to plough for the third crop. He has, in the year after having sold the second crop, considered it necessary to provide "stocking," having entered, in one aggregate sum, £285 currency (£237 10s. sterling) as "the expense of stocking the farm, and servants' wages and board;" but whether he intends any part of that sum for *working* stock does not appear; nor can it be ascertained, on the closest investigation of the whole statement for the four years, whether any other working cattle, excepting the one yoke of oxen, are supposed to have been kept at all. Certainly no provision has been made for any of them, either in provender or in money, with the exception of the chance of a little hay the last year. He says, in the third year, that all has "hitherto been done by contract;" but there is not one shilling entered in any of the accounts under that head; nor can it be supposed, from the small sums entered under other heads (altogether inadequate for meeting the unavoidable expenditure under these, as will be seen afterwards), that he ever considered them to include any thing else but what they purport to do; and nothing therein contained seems in any way to refer to the work of cattle, unless it may be supposed that it does so so far as relates to

the process of "sowing" the wheat on the newly burnt lands. I cannot, however, suppose that it does even that. If it does, it is taking the management of the farm very coolly indeed, to leave the sowing and harrowing of the wheat seed into such a seed-bed to the care and skill of common axemen, employed to cut down and burn the timber. Assuredly under such a system there would not much wheat go to market.

I have already said, that there are no means of ascertaining whether Mr. Fergusson meant the word "stocking" to include working cattle, with harness, carriages, and other implements, along with the servants' wages and board; but it will be seen afterwards that the sum he has entered for the last two years would be all required to cover the cost under any one of these three heads of charges,—viz. 1st, Purchase of horses and oxen for a farm so cropped: 2d, Purchase of implements and utensils: 3d, Payment of servants' wages and board for 12 months.

As I consider the reasons given by me herein, sufficient to prove that horses must be kept for the road, and oxen for labour in the woods and stumps, even from the very outset, and also the questions which I have put to be unanswerable otherwise than

affirmative of my argument, I consider it to be unnecessary to enlarge farther on this point.

The estimate which will be afterwards inserted, will shew what sum I consider necessary for being expended under this head, and my reasons for such expenditure,

*Third Objection.*—WANT of SUITABLE BUILDINGS.

The whole amount charged for buildings of every description is as follows :

1st Year—Log-house, .....	£50	0	0
Barn, including stables, cow-			
house, &c. ....	50	0	0
4th Year—Houses for feeding stock, .....	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£120	0	0

This, at 24s. currency per sovereign, is £100 sterling.

In the third year there is an entry of £40 currency for improvements “about the house;” but as this clearly refers to forming a garden, and other outdoor work, such as fencing, &c. I do not include it in this account of buildings; and as the £80 currency (£66 13s. 4d. sterling), allowed for the thrashing-mill the fourth year, is not half enough for the machinery alone—making allowance for great ex-

pense of mechanics in Canada, and carriages of heavy iron-work from distant foundries, where every thing which requires new models and mouldings is excessively dear—it cannot be supposed that Mr. Fergusson meant any part of that for the houses.

Here, then, is, to erect dwelling-house, stables, and cow-houses, barns for hay and grain, houses for feeding stock, houses for thrashing-mill, and other buildings required for a homestead, upon a farm from which upwards of Eight Thousand bushels of wheat are to be sold during the first four years, and a “feeding stock” to be kept,—a farm which, it will be seen by the estimate which follows, will require to have upon itself lodgings to accommodate at least twenty men, besides the family of the farmer, during all seasons of the year,—at least twenty horses and oxen for labour, in addition to milk cows and their followers (if any such are to be kept),—a homestead, to procure a site for which it will be necessary to cut down and clear away, root and branch, immense trees, growing upon land situated in the depths of an all but impenetrable forest, and which will yet, after these trees have been cleared away, have to be levelled and prepared for the erection of such buildings, in a country where, by Mr.

Fergusson's own description, there are not only no saw-mills, but not even any roads by which boards can be hauled, and which must therefore be sawed by men upon the spot,—for all these buildings, not one of which can be dispensed with in carrying on the adventure on the scale proposed for procuring such a quantity of grain, and in a part of the world where labour is proverbially dear, Mr. Fergusson allows the sum of *One Hundred Pounds sterling*.

As the error committed in making such a calculation must be apparent to every one in the smallest degree acquainted with the erection of new buildings for a farm upon such a scale, I conceive it not to be necessary for me to say any thing else than merely to point out those difficulties, and very heavy attendant expenses, which are peculiar to the country, and the nature of the ground upon which the new settlement has to be made. I must, however, here explain, that in Canada barns must necessarily be of immense size, it being indispensably requisite that they should contain nearly the whole of the crop, both on account of the depth of the snow and the severity of the weather in winter—which makes it impossible to remove them into the barn when wanted—and also the heavy rains in spring and fall;

for, with all the boasted fineness of the climate of Upper Canada, it will be found by a comparative view of the climates of the Upper and Lower Provinces, inserted in an after-part of this book, that there is, during very nearly one-fourth of the whole year, either rain or snow in the Upper Country—viz. 89 days.

The common practice of the country is, to have the stable, cowhouse, &c. in the under part of the barns, and the upper part to contain the hay and the grain; the whole of both being housed where it is at all practicable, and the climate requiring that they should all be under cover. In such a case, however, as the present, several barns, and large barns too, are indispensable. It will be seen, by the estimate which follows, what number of horses and oxen must be employed; and for such a number of animals, and the necessary provender, a large barn will be required; and another still larger must be provided for the grain, the thrashing-mill with its appurtenances, and a large quantity of unthrashed grain, in order to keep the thrashing going on when nothing can be done outside. Potatoes and turnips also (of which there are to be no less than 25 acres the fourth year) must be all under cover, and care-

fully secured from frost; for whatever remains in the ground when the frost comes on in November are lost—they are not only covered all winter at such a depth as to be inaccessible, but even turnips are wholly destroyed before the snow goes away. Barn and cellar room has, therefore, to be provided for the whole crop.

It will also be seen that from the number of carriages of one kind or another which have to be kept in that country, in consequence of those used in the summer being useless in the winter, a very large shed is required upon every farm, as every thing must be kept under cover. The effects of the severe frosts upon carriages and implements of all kinds, which have been long drenched in the heavy rains of the beginning of winter, and then become suddenly frozen, are completely ruinous, as the water in the wood swells it so much, tears it from the iron work, and destroys it very rapidly. All utensils, therefore, have to be carefully housed, in order to keep them dry before frost comes on. A wood-house of a considerable size is also necessary, both for containing dry wood, and cutting it up under cover during rain and snow.

For all this establishment Mr. Fergusson pro-

vides—one log-house—one small barn—and some houses for feeding stock.

Having thus pointed out for what purposes and to what extent buildings are required, it must be obvious that the accommodation provided by Mr. F. is utterly insufficient.

*Fourth Objection.*—INADEQUACY OF ALLOWANCES OF  
MONEY UNDER EVERY HEAD OF CHARGE.

This, I find, I must subdivide as follows:—1st, Insufficiency of allowance for household expenses, wages and board of labourers, and keeping of working cattle.

There will be no difficulty in here proving that the whole sum allowed by Mr. Fergusson for all the yearly expenditure for the current year's crop, would not be sufficient *for harvesting and thrashing alone*, either in Canada or Scotland, the quantity of wheat which he proposes, even although he were to get the crop *ready for the sickle without any expense to himself whatever*.

I would have inserted here an account of all the expenses allowed by Mr. Fergusson, as referring to the four crops—with the exception of the first clear-



ing of the land, and the price of the land and houses—and have contrasted with the amount of these the expense of harvesting and thrashing only; but he has, in the third year, most unaccountably charged in one sum (£285) the expense of “stocking the farm, and servants’ wages and board.” How or for what reason he has done so, does not appear; and his doing so is every way incorrect, as it mixes up the permanent improvements with the expenses for the current crop. For whatever purposes it may have been so done, the consequence is that it completely mystifies the matter, and is equally unsatisfactory as to the giving any information about the stock which is considered necessary, as it is about the proportion of the sum which is allowed for wages and board. On both of these heads the reader is kept in the dark; and the writer is not only unintelligible, but has kept himself from being tangible in the investigation, either in point of expenses or strength of stock which is requisite. I must, therefore, in order that I may go only upon data which is unquestionable, and quite apparent from his own statement, restrict myself to three of the years, viz. first, second, and fourth.

*Expenses allowed by Mr. Fergusson for Three of the  
Four Years.*

**1st Year—Household & other expenses**

till after harvest, .....£30 0 0

Expense of harvesting, .. 35 5 0

Household and other exp. 46 0 0

————— £111 5 0

**2d Year—Allowed for purchasing a team**

of oxen, and household expenses

till after harvest, .....£50 0 0

The team of oxen, with

yokes, chains, and car-

riages would cost at least 25 0 0

—————

Remains for household ex. 25 0 0

Expense of harvesting, .. 61 10 5

Household and other exp. 39 8 4

————— 125 18 9

**4th Year—Household and other ex-**

penses, .....£30 0 0

Household, harvest, and

other expenses, ..... 82 10 0

————— 112 10 0

**Total sum allowed for expenses of farm,**

and keeping stock, for three years, £349 13 9

There being nothing to keep the stock provided until the fourth year, in the latter part of which there may be some hay, but very little.

*Expenses which would be incurred in Harvesting and Thrashing only, the quantity of Wheat assumed to be sold in same Three Years, by Mr. Fergusson's own rates, contained in other parts of his writings.*

In Mr. Fergusson's first book, p. 161, he gives a list of prices at which particular departments of labour may be got done in Upper Canada, from which I extract as follows :

“Wheat reaped, hauled into rickyard, and stacked, L.1 per acre. Thrashing and winnowing, per bushel, 6d.”

The quantity of wheat which he takes credit for is,

1st year, 50 acres, 1250 bushels ;

2d year, 87½ acres, 2187½ bushels ;

4th year, 100 acres, 2500 bushels.

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237½ acres, 5937½ bushels.

The expenses of securing and thrashing this crop alone would therefore be, by his own account,

Reaping, hauling, and thrashing 237½ acres, at L.1, .....	L.237	10	0
Thrashing 5937½ bushels, at 6d. ...	148	8	9
<hr/>			
Total for harvesting & thrashing only,	L.385	18	9

Total allowed by Mr. Fergusson for three years' outlay, for expenses of la- bour on the farm for three years, pur- chasing all food for man and beast, pro- viding seed for part of the wheat crop, potatoes, &c. delivering nearly 6000 bushels of wheat at a distant market, and supporting, clothing, and otherwise providing for a family, .....	349	13	9
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Harvesting & thrashing alone cost more

by .....	L.36	5	0
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These data being furnished by Mr. Fergusson himself, I consider the accounts which I have here submitted a complete demonstration of the absurdity of his statements with regard to the accounts of profits for the four years; but in case it may be argued that the expense of harvesting and thrashing, as given by him in other parts of his book, may

have been over-rated, I subjoin an account to shew that that is not the case.

In this country the expenses of shearing, stooking, carrying to barnyard, and stacking a crop of wheat, putting it into barn, thrashing, winnowing, measuring, sacking, marketing, and delivering at market 10 miles distant, will be found, upon a minute calculation, to amount to 1s. per bushel.

The quantity in previous account, 5,937½ bushels, at 1s. would thus be, £296 17s. 6d.—which, at 24s. for the sovereign (being the value in Halifax currency), would be £356 5s.; being very little less than the sum required, according to Mr. Fergusson's rates, in Canada; but more than the whole charge made by him for whole expenses of the three years. Indeed, to such a length has he carried this negligence—such it must be supposed—that for the whole of the fourth year, in which he proposes to sell wheat to the amount of £562 10s. besides having 25 acres in hay, and 25 in potatoes and turnips, which he values at £120, he does not allow for household expenses, wages and board of labourers, provender for whole stock, and every possible expense, including seed for 37½ acres of wheat, and 25 acres of potatoes and turnips, so much money as would pay

Reaping, hauling, and thrashing 237½ acres, at L.1, .....	L.237	10	0
Thrashing 5937½ bushels, at 6d. ...	148	8	9
<hr/>			
Total for harvesting & thrashing only, L.385	18	9	

Total allowed by Mr. Fergusson for three years' outlay, for expenses of la- bour on the farm for three years, pur- chasing all food for man and beast, pro- viding seed for part of the wheat crop, potatoes, &c. delivering nearly 6000 bushels of wheat at a distant market, and supporting, clothing, and otherwise providing for a family, .....	349	13	9
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Harvesting & thrashing alone cost more

by .....	L.36	5	0
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The quantity in previous account, 5,937½ bushels, at 1s. would thus be, £296 17s. 6d.—which, at 24s. for the sovereign (being the value in Halifax currency), would be £356 5s.; being very little less than the sum required, according to Mr. Fergusson's rates, in Canada; but more than the whole charge made by him for whole expenses of the three years. Indeed, to such a length has he carried this negligence—such it must be supposed—that for the whole of the fourth year, in which he proposes to sell wheat to the amount of £562 10s. besides having 25 acres in hay, and 25 in potatoes and turnips, which he values at £120, he does not allow for household expenses, wages and board of labourers, provender for whole stock, and every possible expense, including seed for 37½ acres of wheat, and 25 acres of potatoes and turnips, so much money as would pay

for harvesting the wheat, and putting in the other crops, without any charge for thrashing at all,—as will appear below.

*Whole sum allowed the Fourth Year.*

1st Charge—Household & other expenses, £30 0 0

2d Charge—Household, harvest, and other expenses, ..... 82 10 0

---

Together,.....£112 10 0

Deduct harvesting the wheat, 100 acres,  
at 20s. per acre, by his own rate of cost, 100 0 0

---

Leaves, £12 10 0

for thrashing, cutting and carrying in 25 acres hay, and taking up and putting in 25 acres potatoes and turnips. The thrashing of the wheat, 2,500 bushels, at 6d. as allowed by himself, would be £62 10s.

Surely this requires no comment.

*Too small a sum allowed for Clearing, Fencing, and Sowing.*

The sum per acre which is charged by Mr. Fergusson all along for “clearing, fencing, and sowing,” is £4; and, it appears, is to include every charge,



Brought forward, ..L.10,882		6	9
363½ acres wheat sown, at 40s. ....	727	0	0
9,067 lbs. maple sugar, at 4d. ....	151	2	4
40 oxen, purchased by labour,...	280	0	0
80 cows, ditto, at L.4 10s. ....	360	0	0
166 hogs, ditto, at 15s. ....	124	10	0

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Halifax currency, ..L.12,524 19 1

Clearing, therefore, is, per acre, L.4; preparing it for sowing, sowing, and seed, L.2: Total, L.6.

At the prices allowed by Mr. Robinson for every article, the produce of the labour would not support the people employed, which is a proof that he has not rated it too high; and every one who attempts to clear land will find it is too little.

Having (as I hope satisfactorily) demonstrated the erroneousness of Mr. Fergusson's statement as to annual expenses of the farm, and also as to the sum allowed for clearing, I have to remark, that that error is to such a degree as that it may be supposed that he has made no allowance whatever for what may be considered the "EXPENSES PROPER" of the farm, so far as these relate to the raising, saving, and disposing of the crop for each particular year.

Indeed, the sum allowed for three out of the four

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# EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

113

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9,067	lbs. maple sugar, at 4d. ....	151	2 4
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and the large quantity of earth which is torn up with them lies on one side in a heap along with the roots. There are also long heaps of the rotten matter of large trees which have fallen probably centuries ago, which lie like red wet sawdust, in a close consistence, which no fire can penetrate, and from which, while it lies in any quantity together, it is as difficult to get any crop produced as if it were solid stone : it seems to kill every kind of seed which lies upon it. These heaps have to be carefully scattered.

In order to shew that it is not merely the chopping and burning that is necessary, I subjoin an extract from the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, already alluded to, from which it will be seen that L.6 an acre is as little as can be estimated at.

**Estimated Value of the Produce of the Labour of  
the Emigrants of 1825, up to 24th Nov. 1826.**

1,386 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land cleared, at L.4, ..	L.5547	0	0
67,799 bolls potatoes, at 1s. ....	3389	19	0
25,623 bolls turnips, at 6d. ....	640	11	6
10,438 $\frac{1}{2}$ bolls Indian corn, at 2s. 6d.	1304	16	3

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Carried forward, .. L.10,882    6    9

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Reaping, hauling, and thrashing 237½ acres, at L.1, .....	L.237	10	0
Thrashing 5937½ bushels, at 6d. ...	148	8	9
<hr/>			
Total for harvesting & thrashing only,	L.385	18	9

Total allowed by Mr. Fergusson for three years' outlay, for expenses of la- bour on the farm for three years, pur- chasing all food for man and beast, pro- viding seed for part of the wheat crop, potatoes, &c. delivering nearly 6000 bushels of wheat at a distant market, and supporting, clothing, and otherwise providing for a family, .....	349	13	9
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Harvesting & thrashing alone cost more

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newly-cleared fields of Canada can have little idea of; and such is the number of oxen which would be required for the ploughings, harrowings, and other operations of the farm, and of horses to carry the grain to market, and haul the logs to be burnt, that I can scarcely bring myself to say the number which would be necessary.

Although it is a repetition of what I have already stated, I beg leave here again to call to recollection that the whole season for field operations is only about five months. Having again mentioned this, I will now call in to my aid a Canadian Agricultural Report for April and May, 1834, from which I give the following extract:—

“ With command of labour, which continued emigration will give, the farmer has only to employ *double* the number of hands for the working season, while the days are long and fine, that he would have required in England.”\*

This extract is from a document shewing every thing in its fairest colours, in order to promote that “ *continued* emigration ” which, it is plainly admitted, is indispensable, and without which they cannot get cultivated the lands which they have already partially cleared.

\* See Martin's Canada, 1836, p. 196.

and the large quantity of earth which is torn up with them lies on one side in a heap along with the roots. There are also long heaps of the rotten matter of large trees which have fallen probably centuries ago, which lie like red wet sawdust, in a close consistence, which no fire can penetrate, and from which, while it lies in any quantity together, it is as difficult to get any crop produced as if it were solid stone: it seems to kill every kind of seed which lies upon it. These heaps have to be carefully scattered.

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Indeed, the sum allowed for three out of the four

settlements, but the very peculiar system which it is proposed to adopt, of raising wheat only for the first three years, to the exclusion of other crops,—the provender for the working cattle having thereby to be carried from a great distance, without roads, and the wheat to be transported overland to a still greater distance before a market can be found.

I will, however, restrict the number of horses (which only are fit for the road in long journeys) to double the number required to be kept at home on a farm of the same extent, but allowing two double teams of oxen for working where horses cannot be used.

I will thus rest my argument upon data which must make the sum which I will charge for stocking much less than it should be, if allowance were to be made for the peculiar difficulties of the system proposed to be attempted.

*Estimate of Stock required in Fourth Year.*

14 Horses, at L.15, .....	L.210	0	0
8 Oxen, at L.7 10s. ....	60	0	0
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Carried forward, . . .	L.270	0	0

Brought forward, . . . .	L.270	0	0
7 Sets Harness, at L.10, per Mr. Fer-			
gusson's account, . . . . .	70	0	0
4 Yokes for Oxen, and 4 Ox-chains,	8	0	0
4 Double Horse Waggon, at L.20, . . .	80	0	0
2 Ox Carts, at L.15, . . . . .	30	0	0
1 Light Waggon for travelling, . . . .	15	0	0
7 Double Horse Sleighs, at L.7, . . . .	49	0	0
6 Ploughs, at L.3, . . . . .	18	0	0
10 Harrows of all kinds, . . . . .	10	0	0
Smaller implements, barn utensils, and tools for every purpose, many of which are wanted, the buildings being all wood. (At least L.5 worth of axes will be required; and sacks are very high-priced.) . . . . .	50	0	0
Furniture, cooking utensils, &c.; beds and bedding for at least 20 men, be- sides the family, as will be seen in Estimate of Expenses, . . . . .	100	0	0
<hr/>			
Total, . . . . .	L.700	0	0

In making up this Estimate of Live and Dead  
Stock required on the farm during the fourth, and,

I may also say, the third year, I have charged the prices of every article as rated by Mr. Fergusson, where the prices can be had in his books; and the amount is, .....L.700 0 0

The whole amount allowed by Mr. Fergusson during the whole period, is,

1st Year—For furniture,..L.20 0 0

2d Year—For a team of oxen,  
and household expenses, L.50;  
of which I allow for the oxen,  
sled, &c. .... 25 0 0

4th Year—Entered for stock-  
ing, and servants' wages and  
board, L.285, but whether any  
part is entered for working-  
stock does not appear; and as  
he, in the next year, provides  
houses for "feeding stock,"  
which are not entered anywhere  
else, it would appear they cost  
part of this sum; and as yet not  
so much as a milk cow or pig  
has been allowed for. I will,

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Carried forward,..L.45 0 0 700 0 0



Brought forward, . . L.45 0 0 700 0 0

however, make this calculation  
on the supposition that nothing  
would be really purchased which  
could be wanted for work alone,  
and that only L.100 was allow-  
ed for wages and board. This  
will leave of the L.285,—for  
stocking, . . . . . 185 0 0

————— 230 0 0

Deficiency in stocking alone, . . . L.470 0 0

This account may appear startling to a person who has hitherto only skimmed over the pleasing descriptions which we generally see of American farming, and the superficial and deceptive estimates of expenses, in which all the particulars of the heavy work is wholly omitted, and the expenses supposed to be included in the very comprehensive abbreviation, “&c.” attached to some other account of expense of minor importance.

As an instance of this plan of inserting, upon the charge side of these Canadian accounts, different items of charges, in order to escape detection as far

as possible, there is in Mr. Pickering's book, p. 165, the following entry :—" Two acres for potatoes, cabbages, turnips, and other vegetables, for house (chiefly), sheep, calves, &c.—hiring a stout boy at 5 dollars per month and board, for a year, to attend cattle, milk, &c.—100 dollars.

Mr. Pickering having also taken the easy way of managing these matters, was not at the trouble of providing hay, or any superfluity of that kind, for cattle, or provisions for men to do the work, but supposes a sum to be given for the work ; and here is so liberal as allow 100 dollars—about L.20 sterling—for all which is included in the above paragraph. The wages of the boy, he admits, is 60 dollars, the year's board would be 72 dollars—together, 132 dollars ; and yet this only forms a part of the charge : the other part, with seed, labour among stumps, and housing, would cost more than 100 dollars besides.

It is very odd, too, that these *pro forma* calculators, besides omitting the keeping for cattle, invariably also forget to provide food for their labourers, although, in that part of the publication which refers to price of labour, board and lodging is as invariably enlarged upon. Indeed, board and lodging, from

the peculiar circumstances of the country, it is indispensably necessary to have provided by the employer.

Thus in the farm at Nichol there is, in the stocking of the farm alone, a deficiency of L.470, although not one shilling is charged but what is required for work only; without keeping, either for profit or convenience, one single living animal besides the working cattle, or even a spare animal to replace such as might be lamed, or otherwise unable to work.

The expense of one team of horses, prepared for road and field, at Mr. Fergusson's prices, may be reckoned as follows :—

2 Horses, .....	L.30	0	0
1 Double Horse Waggon, .....	20	0	0
1 Set Harness, .....	10	0	0
1 Double Horse Sleigh, .....	7	0	0
1 Plough, .....	3	0	0
Swingle-trees and Plough-chains, .....	1	8	4
Harrows, .....	2	0	0
Drag-chain, always used for trees, &c.	1	5	0
Horse-cloths, L.1 each, for putting on when travelling, and always required,	2	0	0
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One span, with necessary appurtenances, would cost .....	L.76	13	4

Thus we see that one pair of horses, with the necessary appurtenances, cost L.76 13s. 4d. currency; and a very poor figure they would make, indeed, at that price, to be employed in such an undertaking. At this rate, however, three pairs only would cost L.230 currency, equal to L.191 13s. 4d. sterling,—the whole sum which Mr. Fergusson allows for live and dead stock of every description, implements, tools, household furniture, beds and bedding, for such an establishment.

I would ask any farmer, even in this country, with a farm of which 150 acres are to be in crop, whether he could manage it with three pairs of horses, without any spare beast? And although he could do so, whether it would not cost him as much money as this to enable him to send three pairs with a decent outfit to the field with a load of manure each, and to do a yoking at the plough? besides all the value of his stocking at home, outside and inside;—and yet Mr. Fergusson here supposes, that in that out-of-the-way part of the world—where for six months of the year he cannot enter a field, or, indeed, scarcely see the face of the earth for snow or water—he can, for that sum, furnish a house which may defy the rigours of the climate, and stock a farm,

off which he can sell, in one year, wheat alone to the amount of L.562 10s.—never mind the want of roads, or want of neighbours to combine with him to break through the drifted snow—carry the grain 40 or 50 miles to market, and bring back provender for the live stock, and food for every living creature on the farm.

*3d, Insufficiency of sum allowed by Mr. Fergusson for Houses.*

Referring to what I said on this point (p. 99 to 103), I have now to state what sum I consider necessary for providing the requisite buildings.

The sum allowed by Mr. Fergusson, p. 99, for dwelling-house, barn, stables, and cow-house, is L.100. I have already said, that any one in the least acquainted with the subject must be aware of the absurdity of supposing that the buildings provided for by Mr. Fergusson were sufficiently extensive for the farm; but I have now to prove, from his own writings, that he is in error in allowing only such a small sum.

In his Letters in the Agricultural Journal, on his return after his first visit, he gives a “rough estimate” of a supposed investment in Michigan; and

says, "having submitted it to the correction of competent judges acquainted with the present state of the district, it may perhaps be useful to insert it, especially as *it applies also to much of Upper Canada.*"

Price of 160 acres, at $1\frac{1}{4}$ dollar, . . . . .	Dols. 200
Expenses of seed, labour, say 150 acres, and rail-fence, at 6 dollars, . . . . .	900
Harvesting, at 2 dollars, . . . . .	300
Cost of dwelling-house, stables, &c. . . . .	800
	<hr/>
	Dols. 2200

Produce of 150 acres, at 20 bushels :—3000 bushels, at 1 dollar, . . . . .	Dols. 3000
Deduct, as above, whole cost, . . . . .	2200
	<hr/>

Clears first year, and every thing paid, . . . Dols. 800

I will make few remarks upon this statement; in which no stock of any kind, no working cattle, no utensils, not even household furniture, is provided for; no servants' wages or board at all; not even thrashing; and when these omissions are made, it is not likely that the cost of the dwelling-house, stables, &c. would be charged even so high as it should be (there are no houses for "feeding stock" necessary

here, as there is no stock, and there is no house required for thrashing-mill); but even in this economical statement the cost of dwelling-house and stables is 800 dollars (L.200 currency), being just double the sum stated as requisite in the Nichol adventure, for which he allows only one-half of the sum.

I will even take his own sum for dwelling-house and stables, and suppose that the house is L.100 0 0  
 Stables and barn, ..... 100 0 0

In the Nichol concern, this barn (indeed a much more expensive one) will be required for working cattle and hay, without grain. Suppose, then, another barn for grain, at same price (by far too low), ..... 100 0 0

Houses for feeding stock, allowed by Mr. F. in his Nichol statement, third year, ..... 20 0 0

In Scotland, an 8-horse thrashing-mill, without the houses necessary, cannot be got for less than L.100 at least (L.120 currency). Here the wages of a millwright may be taken at 3s. per

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Carried forward, . . . L.320 0 0

Brought forward, . . . L.320 0 0

day, without board; but in Canada, with board, including master tradesman, at least 8s. currency. This would be for wages more than double. The machinery for a thrashing-mill here is got at half the price it can be got for in Canada, where such work as this is enormously dear, in consequence of its being such an uncommon occurrence, that a great expense has to be incurred in the mouldings. It has also, in this instance, to be carried a great distance from where it will have to be made; and, upon the whole, would cost double what it would cost here. I will, however,

take it at only one-half more,—say, 180 0 0

House for thrashing-mill—(this is not

taken notice of at all by Mr. F.), . . 50 0 0

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L.550 0 0

Deduct sum allowed by Mr. Fergusson

for house and barn, . . . L.100 0 0

Houses for feeding stock, 20 0 0

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120 0 0

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Deficiency for houses, . . . L.430 0 0



That in many newly-settled places there are not houses which cost so much, is true; but it is also true, that it is from want of ability to get them built. They are necessary, and must be provided at some time or other, long before a farm could, by possibility, be brought to such a stage as Mr. Fergusson here supposes may be done within four years; and wherever such buildings are met with, it will be found, that the cost of them has been much greater than I have here stated. The buildings, indeed, upon a majority of the clearances, have brought the settlers under mortgages to the storekeeper which will never be paid by produce; and from the original settler seeing, when it is too late, that he is never to be the real owner, he naturally gets discouraged,—he has little ability and little interest in hiring tradesmen to keep them in repair,—and they very soon get into an almost ruinous state. The farms abandoned are not worth one farthing, as the fields get very soon into such a wild state, that it would be more difficult to bring them into cultivation again than new land.

## LETTER V.

*Fifth Objection.*—TOO LARGE A QUANTITY OF PRODUCE EXPECTED, AND CALCULATED AT TOO HIGH A PRICE.

THERE is not the smallest reason for expecting such a return as 25 bushels per acre.

Mr. Fergusson, in the estimate which I have given, p. 128, reckons 20 bushels per acre,—Mr. Pickering, in his account, which is shewn to be altogether partial, the returns over-rated and the expenses under-rated, calculates 18 bushels,—and Mr. Shirreff, by far the most intelligent, impartial, and best informed in practical agriculture of any writer whom I have read on Emigration, gives 15 bushels. Certainly, upon an average, the lowest of these three estimates is as high as it should be: for, from the great pro-

portion of the land which is taken up by the stumps, and particularly after the first crop (after which there is much of the ground surrounding the stumps to which the plough cannot possibly reach, which forms a large circle of weeds for every stump), there is not two-thirds of the land for crop.

As Mr. F. however, from personal observation, declares the land to be of the best description, I will suppose 20 bushels for each year, which is more than it would average for the three years during which he proposes to take wheat: for it is altogether at variance with experience to suppose it possible that the land is to yield as well for three successive years as the first, under such imperfect husbandry. Thus one-fifth of the quantity of produce would fall to be deducted.

Mr. Fergusson takes credit for the whole at 4s. 6d. The price of wheat is given by himself as being, even at Niagara, in November, 1833,\* only 4s. 3d.; and this at the precise season of the year when the former crop is all out of the market, and none of the new crop can be got forward, from want of people to thrash, and from want of roads.

That it should even be 4s. 3d. at Niagara at that

\* The date of his making the calculation of 4s. 6d. in Nichol district.

season, is no rule for estimating what it may bring during the season at which produce, generally speaking, and particularly from Nichol, must be brought into the nearer markets. Two shillings and sixpence is more likely as the price which should be charged : that was the price at which it was taken to account by the storekeepers during the season 1834-35 : and although it was rumoured that the price, in summer 1835, would be raised on Lake Ontario, by speculators from New York, to 3s. 9d., yet that was not generally effected, although flour has been higher priced all over America since spring, 1835, than it has been for many years. Mr. Pickering, indeed, gives the price, in one part of his book, at 2s. 6½d. ; although, when he is making out his account of "profits," he takes credit for his crop at 3s. 9d.

Now, even supposing the price at which this estimate is made should be taken at Mr. Pickering's price of 3s. 9d.—which is 50 per cent. higher than it should be—yet there will be 9d. per bushel, or one-sixth of the whole price, to be taken off Mr. Fergusson's receipts ; and at that rate I will make my estimate. The comparative statement will, therefore, be, even making the calculation at 25 bushels per acre—

# EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

135

Yr.	Acres.	Bush.	Charged at 4s. 6d.			Should be 3s. 9d.		
1st,	50	1250	L.281	5	0	L.234	7	6
2d,	87½	2187½	492	3	9	410	3	1½
3d,	87½	2187½	492	3	9	410	3	1½
4th,	100	2500	562	10	0	468	15	0

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Credited by Mr. F. L.1828    2    6    L.1523    8    9

At 3s. 9d. per bushel,    1523    8    9

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## Deficiency of money

in crop, ..... L.304    13    9

Making allowance, however, for deficiency in quantity, in quality, and in value, at Nichol, he cannot in reason be expected to produce, within the first five years—that is, four crops—so much as one-half of the sum estimated.

## *Sixth Objection.*—ESTIMATES OF OUTLAY NECESSARY FOR FOLLOWING OUT MR. FERGUSSON'S PLAN.

1st, *Estimate to shew deficiency of funds before first crop can be sold.*

In order to ascertain what sum may really be required to be paid out, before returns are procured by selling the first crop, I subjoin an account of

outlays which are altogether indispensable towards the attainment of that crop.

In making this estimate, I shall keep far, very far, below the amount which I know would be really necessary, not only as I can completely establish my case although I keep far within the sum, but also because I wish to do so in such a manner as that any person whatever, even in this country, who is acquainted with getting labour done, may at once see that such working cattle as I provide for are absolutely necessary in Canada.

Part of the work to be done is as follows:—1st, To keep up the communication with that part of the country from which can be procured supplies of provisions for all the people to be employed in every department, provender for the working cattle, nails, spikes, and ironmongery of all kinds for the buildings, furniture, beds, bedding, and other clothing, cooking utensils, implements of husbandry, and tools of all kinds,—the nearest place from which these can be procured being Guelph, at the distance of twenty miles, and without roads, by Mr. Fergusson's own account.

The work to be done on the place includes the clearing of a site for the buildings, hauling logs for

house, logs for boards and beams, and shingles for house and barns, hauling the logs to be burnt off 50 acres of land for wheat,—and much other work, for which oxen are at all times required upon a new farm.

Then as to the crop, there is, besides the ox-work required before the seed is harrowed in, the carrying to the barn of the produce of 50 acres in wheat.

There is then 1250 bushels of wheat to be carried to a distant market, all which must be carried off within the three months in which sledding can be at all reckoned upon, and which department of the work alone will require eight horses for the whole time in which it is possible to carry it off, as will be seen by recurring to page 119: and this quantity of grain cannot, indeed, be taken to market with so few. I shall, however, in my calculation, restrict the number of horses to two spans from the beginning, supposing that it may be possible to do all the horse part of the work, already described, with that number; and supposing that part of the carriage of grain is done by the oxen which have to be kept during the summer for such work as horses are unfit for.

For the hauling about the place, and other work

for which horses may be dispensed with, I will charge only four yokes of oxen; and as in many cases besides the ploughing, four oxen are required to work together, the number of oxen is also by much too small.

*Outlay for First Crop.*

200 acres of Land, .....	L.200	0	0
House, Barn, and Furniture, .....	120	0	0
50 acres to be cleared first year, at L.4,	200	0	0
4 Horses, at L.15, .....	60	0	0
8 Oxen, at L.7 10s. ....	60	0	0
2 Waggon, at L.20—per Mr. Fergus- son's list of prices, p. 161, First Visit,	40	0	0
2 sets of Harness, at L.10—per ditto,	20	0	0
2 Sleighs, at L.7—per ditto, .....	14	0	0
4 Sleighs for Oxen, at L.2—per ditto,	8	0	0
4 Ox-chains, at L.1 5s.—per ditto,....	5	0	0
Yokes, &c. ....	3	0	0
Keep of 4 Horses, at L.20 (too little),	80	0	0
Keep of 8 Oxen, at L.15, .....	120	0	0
2 Men for horses, 2 for oxen, and 2 for other work,—say 6 men, at L.45 per annum, for board and wages, .....	270	0	0
Carried forward,....	L.1200	0	0



**EMIGRATION TO CANADA. 139**

Brought forward, . . . .	L.1200	0	0
1 Woman, for board and wages, . . . . .	30	0	0
Barn utensils, fanners, bags, forks, &c. . . . .	20	0	0
Axes, saw, augers, pinches, &c. . . . .	10	0	0
<hr/>			
Total outlay, . . . . .	L.1260	0	0
Capital, . . . . .	600	0	0
<hr/>			
Deficiency, . . . . .	L.660	0	0
Price of Crop, . . . .	281	5	0
<hr/>			
Deficiency after selling crop, . .	L.378	15	0

This deficiency of L.378 15s. has arisen while the expenses are only charged for 12 months, although it has been proved that wheat cannot, by any means, be procured in less than 18 months, and it would require the other six months to prepare such a quantity for, and take it to market; and therefore the expense of the establishment, or at least of the greater part of it, should have been charged for a much longer time: and it must be kept in mind, that not only must the ploughing have been got on for next crop, but a great outlay must have been expended for clearing more of the woodland for next crop, before any of the first crop is got.

In order to pay the expenses of farm and house-keeping in the clearing of the break for next year, all which would have to be done before the winter in which the first crop could be taken to market, would require at least L.400, in addition to the L.1260: together, .....L.1660 0 0

From which deduct capital, ..... 600 0 0

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Deficiency, .....L.1060 0 0

In making this estimate, I have charged every outlay at Mr. Fergusson's prices.

*Expenses of Fourth Year.*

8 Men, board and wages, at L.45, ....L.360 0 0

1 Woman, ..... 30 0 0

Keep for 14 Horses, at L.20, ..... 280 0 0

Ditto for 8 Oxen, at L.15, ..... 120 0 0

Tradesmen's Bills for Smith-work, Car-

penters, Saddlers, &c. .... 30 0 0

Travelling expenses, ..... 10 0 0

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Total for fourth year, ..L.830 0 0

For first crop I will only reckon two-

thirds of this amount,—say, ..... 550 0 0

Second crop, two-thirds, ..... 550 0 0

Third crop, three-fourths, ..... 620 0 0

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Total expenses for four years, ..L.2550 0 0

*Mr. Fergusson's Statement.*

Land, .....	L.200	0	0
Clearing, .....	600	0	0
Stock, .....	210	0	0
Buildings, .....	220	0	0
Expenses of all kinds, .....	668	2	6
<hr/>			
Paid away, .....	L.1898	2	6
Receipts for Produce, ..	1948	2	6
<hr/>			
Profit, ..	L.50	0	0*

*Estimate of whole Outlay by these Calculations.*

Land, original cost, 200 acres, at 20s. . .	L.200	0	0
Clearing 150 acres, at L.4, .....	600	0	0
Stock, reckoning only first cost of what is indispensably necessary during the 4th year, without making any allow- ance for what has been worn out, or allowing any thing for tear and wear, ..	700	0	0
Buildings, .....	550	0	0
Outlay for expenses, .....	2550	0	0
<hr/>			
Cost, .....	L.4600	0	0
Receipts at Mr. F.'s quantity and price, ..	1948	2	6
<hr/>			
Loss, .....	L.2651	17	6

\* Of the original £600. This sum has never been laid out by Mr. Fergusson, so that having £600 in the fourth year besides, he would now have £650.

I have made the foregoing estimates on the supposition that the farmer is to be fed in every respect as a common agricultural labourer; that in whatever way he may live or dress at home, or from home, the amount charged for himself is exactly at the rate of the common hired man,—that no stock is kept except what is requisite for doing the work,—that no allowance is made for any contingencies whatever, although such must be expected to occur in every case,—that all goes on well and prosperously: splendid crops, without any diminution of quantity from the deterioration of the soil: without either mildew or rust: no loss in harvesting, either from bad weather or want of hands,—and to crown all, at nearly the same price which wheat has been lately selling for in MARK LANE!! If such is the result calculating upon such data, what would be the result in reality?

Mr. Fergusson gives, as the result of his statement, that “at the end of the fourth year he has his farm paid for, stocked, and L.600 currency in his pocket.” My statement gives a very different result indeed; but I fear no scrutiny, however strict and minute: and I trust it will be found by any impartial person who weighs the matter well, not only

that I am borne out in my statement by evidence derived even from Mr. Fergusson's own writings, but by the conviction of his own mind, if he has had any experience or knowledge of the labour or the expense of preparing unimproved land for profitable aration, even although such land may not have had the encumbrance of hundreds of roots of immense trees upon the acre: and I have studied carefully, so far from over-rating the expenditure, or even bringing it to the amount which in reality it should be, to reduce the charge to what work of a similar kind could be got done for at home, where excellent sturdy labourers, at moderate wages, can be had at all seasons.

*Seventh Objection.*—STATE OF THE FARM AFTER TAKING OFF THE FOURTH CROP.

HAVING now got through with all the pecuniary matters of the adventure, I will make some remarks upon the state of the farm; and I think it must present an appearance any thing but cheering. It is—

50 acres of dead stock for fuel, which must not be touched upon by any means, the smallest farm requiring a reserve of that extent for one fire.

50 acres brought forward.

There is, therefore, no new land to resort to for crop.

25 acres cleared first year, which has had wheat in it for three years successively, and grass seeds sown the third year; but as to grass, that is impossible, considering the state in which it was when sown out.

25 acres cleared first year, three years wheat; and potatoes and turnips in the fourth year.

37½ acres cleared second year; three times wheat: no grass seeds.

62½ acres cleared fourth year; wheat: no grass seeds.

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200 acres land.

The 25 acres in grass must be considered as useless for many years; and, indeed, must be, by this time, in a similar condition with those fields of thistles through which Mr. Fergusson passed on his way to Nichol.

The 37½ acres cleared the second year have had wheat three times successively: there is not even grass seeds in it. That portion is, of course, rendered useless for any thing, and unprofitable for

many years to come, and never until a great deal of money is expended upon it.

The 62½ acres, not having had grass seeds put in, are in reality, when things must be looked upon as they really are, in a state to be no longer profitable if another crop of wheat is taken. The 25 acres upon which there was green crop, is, therefore, the only part of this farm from which a crop can in any reason be expected; and what will the proceeds of that be towards paying the expenses which have to be incurred?

There is now (must inevitably be) on the farm a working stock to carry on the operations of the farm. There is no provender yet upon the place to support the stock—for it is all in vain to suppose there is to be any hay on the 25 acres sown two years ago in land in such a state; and although there even was the average crop of the country, it would not support the stock three months. There has not even been grass seeds sown on the 37½ acres, to give the stock a little pasture; and no grass can be sown in it now until it has been fallowed.

For years to come, therefore, the whole hay for such a stock has to be purchased: and what expense has to be looked forward to for many years! No

less, indeed, than the expense of the real clearing,—for particulars of which I refer to an after-part of this book,—an expense which will far exceed the value of the produce for a long time ; and, indeed, never by any chance, until a great part of the land is laid out in hay to support the working stock necessary to be kept, for bringing the fields into a proper state for plough and harrow.

While the rough land is under this state of preparation, all is expense—no produce : and hence the absurdity of clearing (in the first instance even) a great extent each year for a number of consecutive years.

Here, then, after the farm has been what is generally termed “cleared,” the greatest expense per acre has to be incurred ; and for one year at least without any crop whatever over every acre of the farm.\*

\* In estimating the number of men whose services will be required during the operation of clearing so many acres in such a short time, and carrying on the other operations of the land in crop, it must be taken into account, that at least 10 choppers will have to be employed, besides tradesmen. This will make the number in all upwards of 20 men, who have to be accommodated, there being no inhabitants in the neighbourhood.



## LETTER VI.

REMARKS UPON "STATISTICAL SKETCHES OF UPPER CANADA, FOR THE USE OF EMIGRANTS: BY A BACKWOODSMAN." 1832.

THIS book is written ostensibly to convey to intending Emigrants that information so requisite in a matter of so much importance, and in answer to letters from numerous "friends," by whom, as the writer, with much modesty, tells the reader, he "was, of all men in the province, the one they considered best qualified to give such information:" and of his being a most proper person for conveying to them such valuable intelligence as he here favours them with, he gives the following proofs:—

"As for my qualifications to give information relative to this province, I have only to state, that it is now nearly twenty years since I first came to the country, having served here during the war in the

years 1813, 14, and 15 ; and that, since the year 1826, my principal employment has been, to traverse the country in every direction, and visit nearly every township in it for the express purpose of obtaining statistical information. If, therefore, the reader will only be pleased to allow that my judgment is equal to that of the ordinary average of mankind, it must be pretty evident that I have sufficient knowledge for the undertaking ; and I, on my part, can assure him or her (for I am in hopes I shall have both sexes for readers), that I will, according to the formula of the oath, speak ‘the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.’

“ At the present moment, when public attention is so much turned to the Canadas, authentic information is much called for ; and though many works have been written on the subject, yet most of them have been inaccurate from want of information, or partial, in so far as the writer, being only acquainted with one section of the country, has described it as an epitome of the whole.”

How far he has acted candidly—how far he has made them informed upon the points most important and most necessary to be ascertained by a person who contemplates becoming a settler in the Back-

woods—or how far he has been impartial—may be judged of from the following extracts and remarks:

“Of agriculture, as practised in this province, I have very little to say, except that were the same slovenly system pursued in any country less favoured by nature, it would not pay for the seed that is used. I have already stated the ruinous mode of taking repeated crops of wheat off the land; and on the river Thames, in the Western district, I witnessed a refinement on this barbarism, viz. burning the stubble before the land was ploughed for winter wheat, and thus depriving it of even that trifling strength that it might derive from the decomposition of the straw.

“It is only in some parts of the province that manure is used at all; and it is not an uncommon occurrence, when the stable-litter has accumulated in front of the building called the barn (which generally contains all the farm offices), to such a degree as to have become a nuisance, that a man invites his neighbours to assist him in removing the barn, which is always a frame building, away from the dunghill, instead of transporting the dunghill to the wheat field.

“But the spirit of improvement has gone forth.

Three years ago, the Provincial Parliament passed an act, whereby, if a certain sum should be subscribed by any district in the province, to carry on a Society for the improvement of Agriculture, the legislature gave also a sum to assist. Most of the districts have taken advantage of this highly judicious enactment; the Newcastle and western districts have distinguished themselves by the spirited manner in which they have commenced proceedings; and should, as is highly probable, the emigration of the *better classes continue and increase*, there is no doubt that our agriculture will be improved as well as every other interest in the province.

“One question, which every body asks, and which I have not been able satisfactorily to solve, is, what is the average amount of wheat and other grain to an acre? I can only state my belief, that it is considerably above that of England—but how much, I am quite incapable of pronouncing.

“I shall not waste my reader’s time nor my own with estimates of the result of farming pursuits, or how they ought to be set about. It is quite enough that they are, if prudently conducted, uniformly successful. And any man may get more information from the first farmer he meets in the township in

which he takes up his abode, than he would from me, were I to write a book on the subject, like the Dutch poet's, as thick as a cheese.

“ There is one agricultural product for which the soil and climate of Upper Canada are admirably adapted, and to which it would be of great importance, in a national point of view, that the attention of the farmers should be fairly called ;—I allude to Hemp. There is a great deal of very rich bottom land, which is too rank for the growth of wheat in the first instance, but which, were it reduced by a crop or two of hemp, would be made fit for wheat and other grains.

“ In the more remote parts of the country, hemp would be a much more profitable return than wheat, as it is more valuable in proportion to its weight, and consequently, what in one instance goes to the carrier, in the other would go into the pocket of the farmer ; and if Britain possessed a colony that could supply her with this article, so indispensable to a maritime power, it would render her independent of the northern nations ; and in the existing state of things, it is highly desirable that she should not depend on Europe for anything.

“ Hitherto attempts to grow hemp have proved

abortive, because they have been made by solitary individuals; and where a mill was set up by one enterprising and public-spirited gentleman, the farmers in the neighbourhood would not enter into the spirit of the thing, so that he got little or no plant to operate on but what he raised himself. But were a community of farmers to build a mill, and enter into an agreement to raise a certain quantity of hemp each, there is no doubt but it would become a staple of the country, as the difference of duty on foreign and colonial hemp would of itself be a profit sufficient to repay the grower.

“Flax would also be a profitable article, but as yet there is not a single flax-mill in the province. All that is raised is used for domestic purposes, and is dressed with a hand-brake by the farmer who grows it, and spun, and in many instances woven, by the women of the family.

“Tobacco is grown in very considerable quantities in the western district, and it is a very profitable product for people who have large young families, as the culture is much like that of a garden, and the stripping, weeding, worming, &c. &c. is better done by children, who have a less distance to stoop, than by grown persons. As they are the principal la-

bourers, it is found expedient to enlist their interests on the side of their duty; and therefore it is customary, when they have by their industry and diligence saved the crop, to give them, as a reward, the second crop, which is less in quantity and much inferior in quality, but which, if not assailed by frosts early in the autumn, often produces enough to purchase as many good things, and as much finery, as to render the poor urchins, in their own estimation, persons of fortune for that year at any rate.

“The tobacco of Canada is, however, avowedly inferior to that of Virginia, which the people here ascribe to want of skill in the management of it. That may be the case to a certain extent; but it is probable, too, that the climate and soil are not so well adapted to a plant a native of the tropics, as a more southerly latitude.

“Some German soldiers, who had settled in the west after the American revolutionary war, were joined two years ago by some of their friends from the banks of the Rhine, bringing with them the Rhenish vine, which they planted in the autumn of 1830. Of course we cannot tell how wine-making will succeed, for the grape-vine is the most capricious of all possible plants. But as the climate is

more congenial to its culture than that, of many parts of Germany where wine is produced, there is no doubt we may have wine of some sort or other, though it be rather too much to expect a Canadian Hockheimer."

This extract, which occupies a few lines more than four pages of the book (which contains 120 pages), gives nearly all the substance and information which is contained in the whole book upon agriculture—which alone is the object of almost every person who goes out to settle, and on which alone, and the capability of the country for becoming *profitably* agricultural, depends entirely the question, whether it be advisable to emigrate to it or not?

I cannot but admire the quaintness with which the author tells, after his "principal employment" for many years has been "traversing the country for the express purpose of obtaining information," that he really is incapable of giving an answer to the question which every body asks, as to "what is the average amount of wheat and other grain to an acre?" but that, if a man comes out to Canada, he will get more information from the first farmer he meets than he himself has been able to elicit during



so many years of inquiry,—the reason he would give for this being, of course, his being unacquainted with agriculture; and yet, in the very next page, he has the arrogance to recommend the extensive culture of hemp and flax for the supply of Great Britain with these little items which she requires; and he tells you also, that by and bye “there is no doubt” we may have Canadian wine from the Rhenish vine,—and these valuable articles of exportation are to be procured from a country which has not yet been found capable of providing a sufficiency of the first necessities of life for the subsistence of its own inhabitants, as is acknowledged even by the author himself, when he states in p. 91, that the men who procure the timber in the woods have to provide supplies of agricultural produce in England.

In the same inflated gasconading style in which he thus writes of supplying the British market with hemp and flax, he is also (p. 59) to have a direct intercourse immediately opened betwixt the ports of Europe and Lake Superior, by vessels which will not require any reshipment of their cargoes at any intermediate place, but carry them at once right through, and land them at Sault de Sainte Marie, which connects Lake Huron with Lake Superior,

an internal navigation of nearly 1,500 miles in extent; and yet the depth of water, both in the Lachine and Rideau canals, through which these sea-going ships would have to pass, is only *five feet*,—a depth of water about as well calculated for a British merchant-vessel for such a voyage, as for a seventy-four gun ship.

In speaking of the climate, too, the same inconsistency appears in this gentleman's writings as in those of others who have written on the same subject, for "propagating particular doctrines,"—a motive by which, by his own account of the matter, some people are influenced.

On this subject he says (p. 30), "Though the cold of a Canadian winter is great, it is neither distressing nor disagreeable. *There is no day during winter, except a rainy one, in which a man need be kept from his work.*" "The fact is, that a Canadian winter is by far the pleasantest season of the year, for every body is idle, and every body is determined to enjoy himself."

He, however, forgets the "particular doctrines which he has to propagate," when he acknowledges at page 2d (writing in March, at a time when spring is well advanced in Britain), that it is "*now mid-*

*winter, and seeing no prospect of my being able to follow my out-of-door avocations for some weeks, I set myself down in a pet."*

Speaking of the Huron Tract belonging to the Canada Company, he says, p. 25,—“ It has been objected by some, that this tract of country is *out of the world*; but no place can be considered in that light to which a steam-boat can come; and on this continent, if you find a tract of good land and open it for sale, *the world will very soon come to you*. Sixteen years ago, the town of Rochester consisted of a tavern and blacksmith's shop—it is now a town containing upwards of 16,000 inhabitants.

“ The first time the Huron Tract was ever trod by the foot of a white man was in the summer of 1827; next summer a road was commenced, and that winter, and in the ensuing spring of 1829, a few individuals made a lodgment: now it contains upwards of 600 inhabitants, with taverns, shops, stores, grist and saw-mills, and every kind of convenience that a new settler can require; and if the tide of emigration continues to set in as strongly as it has done, in ten years from this date it may be as thickly settled *as any part of America*; for Goderich has water powers

quite equal to Rochester, and the surrounding country possesses much superior soil."

Now, as this book is brought forth as a Statistical Account of Upper Canada, for the information of strangers unacquainted with the country, who would doubt that the very thriving state of Rochester must be a proof of the rapid march of improvement in Canada? The unwary Emigrant who has allowed himself to be entrapped in this snare, will, however, be sadly disappointed when (if he has taken this gentleman's advice, where he says, in the beginning of the book, to "come a' thegither") he finds on his arrival in Canada—what he cannot discover from the "Backwoodsman's" book—that *Rochester is not in Canada at all*. Instead of its being like Goderich, with which the author compares it, out of the world, the large commercial town of Rochester is in the United States—in the State of New York—the most thickly inhabited, the richest, and most commercial State in the whole Union.

Rochester is, indeed, the principal place of trade on the northern boundary of the States, not only from its fine water powers, but its other local advantages for trade, and at the same time a link in the chain of communication by canal betwixt the

city of New York and the great western productive states in the basin of the Mississippi,—a depôt for the immense trade betwixt that London of America and the whole Western States, and also for the produce of these States in its transport to the cities on the shores of the Atlantic.

Goderich, on the other hand, is the extreme point in British America (at least in Canada) to which emigration has been attempted to be forced by the Land Company, in their endeavours to bring their wild lands to appear to be a marketable article; and the whole value of the settlement, admitting that the six hundred inhabitants had the same proportion of property as the average of the province, would not amount to the value of the stock of one of the thousands of farmers in the state of which Rochester forms a part.

The art with which Rochester is here inserted in the Statistical Account of Upper Canada, to appear as if being in Canada, is worthy of the writer, who would compare with one another two places so very differently situated.

Rochester is situated in a populous country, long inhabited by a rich, enterprising, well educated, native population—become, by the completion of

grand canals, the great mart of a most enormous trade, long established between distant but rich portions of a country under the same government. That trade has now, by the internal improvement of the country, been diverted into this new channel, instead of being carried on as formerly by the ocean.

Goderich, on the other hand, is more completely out of the world than any other spot which it has been attempted to settle in Canada,—without communication on the north and north-west with any human beings excepting a few miserable Indians; and the Americans on the south-west, having the greatest profusion of the necessaries of life produced in their own more highly-favoured climate, and procuring such manufactures of Europe as they require much cheaper from their own ports on the Atlantic than they can procure them at from the Canadian traders.

The above, I think, is as glaring an attempt at gross deception as can anywhere be met with; and these extracts altogether shew, that the book contains throughout the most glaring contradictions, and the most palpable evidence of its having been written for the express purpose of entrapping the unwary.

In communicating "the more prominent parts of the information which he had been collecting," he begins with a cheering invitation (chapter 1st),—

"Who should come to Canada?

Come a' thegither,

You're a' the welcomer early.

SIR WALTER."

He then devotes a few pages to inform the Emigrant what he is to do preparatory to his becoming a Canadian farmer: that is, *first*, To secure, as far as possible, a comfortable passage, in which he tells him, "it will be to the obvious advantage of all settlers to come out in the earliest ships that sail;" the reason for which is, that "if he arrive in time to put in a small crop of potatoes, turnips, oats, Indian corn, and a little garden stuff, it will go a great way towards the maintenance of a family for the first year, as it will enable them to feed pigs and keep a cow, which they could not otherwise accomplish":\* —*secondly*, Bring out silver or gold, or lodge it with the agents for the Bank of Upper Canada, or at the Canada Company's Office in London:—*thirdly*, Bring out a great many things to be useful to you when

\* Here he misleads the poor Emigrant, by making him believe he may raise food for himself the first year, which is altogether impossible.

there; among others, a good bull, a good stallion, dogs for household use, as one-half of the day is often spent in hunting up and driving home the oxen; taking care, also, not to forget fishing and shooting tackle. After telling farmers and tradesmen of small capital that they will find in Canada a good investment, and that a man of large capital—say about L.5000—if he has a large family of sons, can “wield” his money to very good advantage, he informs his reader, what no doubt will surprise him, “that weavers make better farmers for this country than agricultural labourers,” because “they have no prejudices to overcome, they get at once into the customs of the country, and being in the habit of thinking, improve on them.” What the customs of the country are, the easy adoption of which by the weavers is such an excellent qualification, I have already quoted from himself at page 149, and am aware that weavers very generally do adopt them in Canada; but I was not before aware that a man was incapacitated “for improving” by being accustomed to agriculture.

With these little accompaniments—plenty of all kinds of clothing (not forgetting shooting jackets)—cooking utensils—implements of husbandry—bar-



rels of books—a sufficient quantity of Anderson's pills—Epsom salts—and, though last not least, good Jamaica or Cogniac—he recommends to you the Canada Company's Huron Tract, and sets you down altogether with very little trouble, about 700 miles to the westward of Quebec.

These, with a great many other important matters, one of which is, a recommendation to government to send out to Canada colonies of "*parish children, from six to twelve years of age, under a qualified superintendent*" (a scheme, the bare recommendation of which is sufficient to consign the book, if not the writer, to execration), occupy four chapters (31 pages); and when the Emigrant has got to his "location," he of course turns over the next page with much interest, for instructions how he is to set about the important business of settling himself for life, the purpose for which he is here. What is his surprise when he finds there is not one word upon the subject!

The opening of the next chapter is—"Having settled yourself, and got things into some kind of tolerable order and comfort, you will next begin to think how you may *amuse your leisure hours.*" He then gives you 22 pages upon "field sports," and five upon comfort in travelling and recipes for

“cookery,”—thus occupying 27 out of the whole 120 pages with these subjects so very important to the stranger! He does not, like most of the writers, tell you how to proceed in clearing the lands—in raising grain and selling immense quantities of it—he makes no calculations to shew how easily money may be made in that way. He tells you he will not waste the “reader’s time nor” his “own with estimates of farming pursuits, or how they ought to be set about: it is quite enough that they are, if prudently conducted, uniformly successful,”—and then, with a recommendation to raise hemp, flax, and tobacco (for which purposes, I suppose, he was to import the little children), he leaves you to get out of the mud the best way you can.

To divert the reader under the disappointment which he must have met with, when he finds he has been so completely baulked in his expectation of getting important information in a book with such a title, he gives the following account of an adventure of a worthy friend of his, which, I have no doubt, is entitled to as much credit as other parts of the book:—“A worthy friend of mine, of the legal profession, and now high in office in the colony, once, when a young man, lost his way in the woods, and seeing a high stump, clambered up it with the

hope of looking around him. While standing on the top of it for this purpose, his foot slipped, and he was precipitated into the hollow of the tree, beyond the power of extricating himself. Whilst bemoaning here his hard fate, and seeing no prospect before him save that of a lingering death by starvation, the light above his head was suddenly excluded, and his view of the sky, his only prospect, shut out by the intervention of a dense medium, and by and by he felt the hairy posteriors of a bear descend upon him. With the courage of despair he seized fast hold of bruin behind, and by this means was dragged once more into upper day."

This book, although written with much ingenuity, and in some instances very amusing, is evidently a piece of as complete quackery as any of the "puffs" which have been written upon Upper Canada; and the writer is certainly very inexcusable, as he has had much opportunity of seeing the country, and is evidently well acquainted with the subjects upon which he writes. He has not, therefore, the same excuse as others who have written without having these opportunities, and who would not have done so had they not been imposed upon themselves by the specious accounts given by others.

## LETTER VII.

REMARKS UPON "HINTS ON EMIGRATION TO UPPER CANADA. BY MARTIN DOYLE." 2d Edition. 1832.

Mr. MARTIN DOYLE—if there be such a gentleman—has adopted a most judicious course: he stays at home, even although that home appears to be Ireland. He, however, tells his readers that his communications "are the result of deep and anxious inquiry, and from the latest and most approved authorities." That being the case, and Mr. Doyle therefore being *no authority at all*, I would not have thought of taking any notice of his book, had it not been that some of the periodicals of the day have brought it forward, not merely as an "authority," but one of them (I believe the most extensively circulated of any journal in existence) declares it to be "the best manual on Emigration." I am, therefore, induced to take notice of it, and to point out such

inconsistencies as will shew any considerate person how far he can place reliance on such "authority." It being principally a compilation from other authors—among whom are Mr. Pickering (from whom he seems to have taken a great part of his information) and Mr. Fergusson—it is unnecessary for me to say much, as I have already so fully expressed my dissent from the opinions of these gentlemen.

I will not occupy much time by making remarks, but merely state, that the letters given by him as from emigrants are almost altogether of the same strain. They are written in the style of other advertisements of that kind; but how Mr. Doyle happens to have got so many of the letters addressed by Emigrants from England to their friends in London, and other parts on this side of the channel, appears very strange. The substance of the whole is exactly similar:—condolence with their friends in Europe for the starvation and other miseries to which they are still doomed to submit in England, as well as Ireland; from want of food and want of money—fulness of every thing in Canada—from 3s. to 8s. per day for wages, besides board and lodging—plenty of beef, butter, poultry, turkeys, and every thing that is good—well stocked farms of their own

in a few years—no taxes—lots of invitations to come out—directions to the starving Emigrants at home to take a great many things out with them—long lists of articles which will be useful in Canada—weather pleasant, and flour three farthings per pound !

The following picture will shew how comfortable the *poor settlers* are:—"Where salmon are abundant, it is of course desirable to preserve them for winter food, either by pickling or smoking them. A good supply of cured fish, with the accompaniments of geese and turkeys, and fowls (wild and tame), venison, beef, &c. hung up during the frost, is a cheering prospect to the poor settlers in the winter months, and all these luxuries and comforts he can easily have. The usual mode is to kill fat deer, sheep, and fowls, at the commencement of the frost, in those districts where its long continuance is certain, and to expose them to be frozen for a night; they will then, in this congealed state, keep fresh during the whole winter. A double purpose is obtained by this plan: the animals are killed before they lose their condition, and the food which they would otherwise consume during the winter is saved."

This is pure invention, and completely at variance

with the truth and with every authority on the subject: and if there was any truth in it, why call them "poor settlers"?—a mere artifice, to excite the wishes of others to be there.

When writing letters to make labourers believe that they will get enormous wages, then of course wages are very high, and not only for a day or so, but for a whole year. P. 81: "Men's wages are from 3s. to 5s. a-day, take the year round, with board. Clements and I cut, threshed, and winnowed, in four days, 84 bushels of pease; and for our wages got 21 bushels, besides our board." Next line: "Pease, 2s. 10d. per bushel." Thus, then, they have for wages, 21 bushels at 2s. 10d. (L.2' 19s. 6d.), being within a fraction of 7s. 6d. a-day each; making, with board (1s.), 8s. 6d. a-day,—certainly a pretty heavy tax upon the poor farmer who has to pay it, being 25 per cent. of his crop. Now, this 3s. to 5s. per day throughout the year, making an average of 4s., would make the wages upwards of Sixty Pounds a-year, besides board; although, from every other concurring authority, we know that it is not more than one-half of that sum. When, however, the dose has to be prepared for the person who has money to purchase cleared land, and who would

calculate upon having his work afterwards done by contract, he is told, p. 50, that he will get ploughing done for 6s. 3d. per acre; so that, for providing a man with cattle and a plough to do a great day's work (for certainly to plough an acre among stumps is such), you are told you will get it done for 2s. 3d. less than one man will make at threshing pease.

Again, in order to tempt them out by giving accounts of cheapness, he tells them, p. 81, that wheat is 3s. per bushel; but at p. 50, it is 4s. 8d. to 5s. as market prices. The following is from one of Mr. Doyle's letters of invitation:—"I only wish you were here to live as we do, we want for nothing; but when we sit down, to think how they are all starving at home, it gives me the horrors, especially my poor father and mother. I hope my dear brother James will not let them want, and tell them I hope in the course of a little time I shall be able to send him something in return, as we are doing well. My dear Sister, I hope you will oblige me, and send this letter to Frome as soon as you have read it, as John Hill is coming, and we long to see him; and John Hill I hope *will help my brother Henry out, and be not afraid, for we will pay you his expenses when you get here, and we will do every thing in our power to*



assist you. Be sure to bring Martha out with you, and *we will give her plenty of bacon*; tell Henry to bring *two donkeys with him for breeding*, for they are so valuable here that you can get L.50 for them when you get here: a man brought two with him lately, and was offered L.50 for them and would not take it. Tell John Hill to come with all speed, for he will do better here than ever he did in England, and be sure to bring a good gun, for you need not be afraid of shooting, for this is the place to live in. I wish my father and mother would venture to come; we would keep them as long as they live, and keep them comfortable. John when you arrive, I hope we shall have a merry meeting; tell my brothers, John, William, and James, that carpenters have a capital trade here all the year round, and basket-makers would soon get a good fortune; all trades are very good indeed, and God send you all out with speed. Go to Samuel Stint and tell them to come directly, and tell Stint to go to Mr. Gillet and tell him to come here, for stone-work is plenty,\* there is more work going on than we can tell them. Tell my brother John, if he will come, he can do well

\* Fine climate for stone-masons, with six months of winter, and nearly all the houses wood!

here; but if he cannot raise the means to come at present, I hope in the course of another year we shall be able to help him."

"We have plenty of good beef and mutton, flour, pork, fish, fowl, and butter, and by one day's work, a man can supply himself with these necessaries sufficient for three days. You have a good many cold bellies to go to bed with, or things are greatly altered since I was with you; but here, if you choose, your belly would be so warm for three halfpence, that you would not know the way to bed."

Here he tells the poor man, who is starving at home, and who cannot get out for want of money to pay his own expenses, to bring out with him two donkeys, the expenses of which in freight, keeping, &c. from England to York, would in all probability be not less than L.25 or L.30. He is, however, to have a capital investment for his money, as he is promised L.50 for them when there. Of such stuff is this valuable collection of information composed; but without a parcel of such letters, written for the purpose of deception, it seems no book upon Canada can now be complete.

I do not consider it to be of much importance what food a man may get, provided he get enough of

it; but I know that salt pork, sometimes with bread, sometimes with potatoes, and very often potatoes without meat at all, is the general food of a majority of the settlers.

In puffing off Guelph in the Huron territory, he says—"Nor can any thing more strongly shew the rapidity with which a prosperous settlement is formed in Upper Canada, than the following account of the building, &c. of this town of Guelph, which is situated on a branch of the river Ouse, or grand river of Lake Erie. The operation of clearing the ground commenced on the 23d April, 1827." He then gives a fine account of the buildings, and predicts grand success to the place; and yet he acknowledges that when he writes in August, 1831, four years after the first settlement of it, "improved farms in its vicinity, with suitable buildings," can be had for "from 15s. to 40s. per acre." These cost the original settlers from 7s. 6d. to 15s. in the wild state: now they can be purchased, with suitable buildings, for 15s. to 40s. although the chopping and burning alone would cost L.4 at least;—and yet this country, which is so soon abandoned by the first settlers, is said to be a fine place for the investment of money.

That such desertion might have been expected,

the difficulty of effecting a settlement in such a country very readily accounts for; and the wonder only is, how money should have been thrown away for such a purpose. The difficulties of either procuring supplies of provisions for new settlers, or forage for their stock for some years, may be judged of from Mr. Fergusson's account of the state of the roads; and the abandonment of the farms in the vicinity, within a few years of their being first settled upon, was with good reason anticipated by that gentleman,—as will appear from the following description given by him of Guelph on his first visit:—

“The state of the road may be in some measure estimated from a party which I passed, consisting of three men and six oxen, that had been *six days absent from home*, which they would only reach that day, drawing a load under which a donkey would have trotted upon any British turnpike, and the whole extent of the journey not exceeding *twenty miles*. Guelph is situated in the Gore district, about 80 miles from York, and has been laid out upon an extensive scale: a fine stream flows past the town, and a large grist-mill is at work upon it.

“A good deal of land has been located in the neighbourhood, and the town may ultimately pros-

per. At present it wears a stagnant appearance, and conveys somewhat the idea of the cart preceding the horse. When farms become numerous, and a mill is erected in a convenient situation, a town soon grows up; but here the town has been hurried forward in the hope of selling the land.

“A vast deal of capital has been expended on roads, &c. which must have so far benefited labourers, and tended in some measure to purchase lots; but at present a very desolate complexion marks Guelph as a city (CITY!!!), which may be very thankful to maintain its ground and escape desertion.”

As an instance of the veracity of Mr. Doyle, and of the credulity with which he expects his readers will swallow the mixture he has made up, I give the following extract:—“A friend of mine has informed me that he once, when on horseback, saw a snake three feet long, with an enormous head, gliding from under his horse, with a toad three times the diameter of his own body, sticking in his jaws, which were extended prodigiously, the toad having slipped about twelve inches down the snake’s throat, with its legs stretched out at each side of the mouth. He dismounted, brought the two animals home, and in about fifteen minutes the toad was sucked down completely.”

What an elegant toad this must have been in size, sticking in the snake's jaws with its legs stretched out at each side of the snake's mouth, although the body of the toad had slipped about twelve inches down the snake's throat!

This is the Mentor, the Guide, the Manual which the Emigrant is recommended by so many journals to take out with him, to insure him an easy and comfortable settlement in a strange land!

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Having so fully shewn how very little dependence can be placed upon the books to which I have referred, and which, indeed, are the most generally relied upon by intending Emigrants,—and, in my remarks thereon, been under the necessity of pointing out the difficulties of settlement and clearing *previous to the removal of the roots*,—I have now, in the second place, to shew what has yet to be done in order to get quit of the roots, and bring the soil into a fit state for aration.

No book which I have yet seen on the subject goes into this part of the work at all: all the writers treat the matter as if the removal of the roots, and preparation of the soil for the plough, were opera-

tions of easy accomplishment, and to be done at leisure hours. They say the stumps die, rot away, and then the land is made up into ridges as the farmer pleases; thus speaking of the roots as if they almost disappeared like snow.

So far from this being the case, the after part of the work is much more expensive than the previous clearing: with this difference, that there is not only a loss of several years in the clearing, but that the crops are necessarily inferior, from the quantity of burnt and half-burnt remains of wood which has now become altogether *effete*, or incapable of yielding any nourishment to the grain, and leaving the surface for a long time in a very rough state. The earth around every stump having become a safe nursery for thistles and other weeds of all kinds, it requires a great deal of ploughing and harrowing before the land is reduced to a proper tilth.

Instead of the roots dying at once, those of the hardwoods very generally spring again, and require a good deal of attention every year to destroy the young shoots. After seven or eight years they may be removed; but this is a work of great labour, and requires the united exertions of a number of men with axes to cut the long roots, crowbars to raise

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them, and two or four oxen to jerk out the immense stump. Then the collecting and building in heaps have to be repeated, and the second drying process and burning to be attended to. That operation occupies one season; and then has to *commence* the "taking in" of the land.

I have already at pages 111 and 112 (to which I beg leave to refer) described the state in which the land is found to be after the burning of the trunks: and now that so many enormous roots have had to be removed—and many more roots of trees of which the trunks had formerly been decayed or broken off, and which are now only discovered—the reader may more easily conceive the state of the field than I can describe it.

Upon this, however—in many places intermixed with large stones—he has to set to work; and, in order to get the benefit of his land, he must begin with draining,—for although that is another part of farming which is never even hinted at in any of these books, draining is in general much more necessary in Canada than in Britain, both from the nature of the soil and from the shortness of the season, for the loss of a few days in waiting until the land dries, often occasions the loss of the crop.

Now that the roots are removed, there are roads to be made, bridges over watercourses, &c. which, in this country, is in general the work of many years, but which, by the writers in question, seem to be very easily done, and they treat the matter so very lightly, that they consider it more necessary to find out amusement for the settler than to say any thing of the work which has to be done, and they, of course, change the subject as quickly as possible to field sports and shooting, although every one in the least acquainted with the country must acknowledge that a farmer will see more game in a ten-acre field in Scotland, in one evening, than he will see upon his *estate* of 200 acres in Canada in seven years. That—and not to the absence of game-laws, to which the “Backwoodsman,” by a strange sort of reasoning, attributes it—is the true cause that the poachers (of whom, to the honour of his neighbours, this gentleman thinks such a great proportion of the Canadian population consists) no longer kill game; for the impossibility of procuring it alone occasions its making its appearance so very seldom in the market, to which every thing of that kind is carried, to enable the poor men to get a little sugar or molasses to make their hemlock *tea* at all drinkable.

## LETTER VIII.

HAVING adverted to the general poverty of the great majority of the settlers in Canada, I will here insert several extracts from official documents, which will I think show, in a very striking point of view, how very little progress is making in the increase of capital in Upper Canada; or rather will prove that all the capital which has been employed in the cultivation of the soil has been actually lost, or very nearly so.

In the Third Report on Emigration, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed (29th June, 1827), in the evidence taken before the Committee it will be seen that the Hon. Mr. Robinson, who superintended the emigration and settlement of 2024 emigrants from Ireland to Upper Canada in 1825, gives the following account of the expense:—

He estimates (No. 3606) “that the Emigrants of 1825 cost, after deducting provisions delivered to commissary at Quebec, L.20 per head, reckoning

men, women, and children, viz. three children to one man and woman, who received rations from date of shipment in May, 1825, to 24th November, 1826." Mr. Felton and Mr. Buchanan (No. 3610) estimate each family of five persons at L.60 sterling, from period of leaving the mother country to termination of receiving assistance in Colonies—say, 15 months after arrival. Mr. Buchanan, p. 512, estimates the expense of transport and settlement of a man, woman, and three children, from the United Kingdom to location, if not exceeding 50 miles from Quebec, at L.11 11s. 6d.; but if taken to the Ottawa, Kingston, or York (Toronto), L.3 or L.4 additional each family.

From these official documents it will be seen what is the expense to the old country of settling Emigrants, even of the lowest grade, in Canada, without taking into account any little property which that class of persons can be supposed to have with them, but which is generally something. The amount will appear to be L.12 sterling.

Let it now be ascertained, as nearly as possible, what is the estimated value of the property at present in Upper Canada. The aggregate amount of rateable property in Upper Canada for the year 1834,

as lately published by authority, is as follows :—  
*Lands*: Acres uncultivated, 4,122,296; cultivated, 1,004,773. *Houses*: Squared timber, one storey, 3,568—with 122 additional fire-places; squared timber, two storeys, 482—with 169 additional fire-places; framed, brick or stone, one storey, 9,968—with 3,880 additional fire-places; framed, brick or stone, two storeys, 2,962—with 2,686 additional fire-places; flouring-mills, 328—with 182 additional pairs of stones; saw-mills, 788; storehouses, 138; merchants' shops, 1,068; merchants' storehouses, 264. *Live Stock*: Horses, 42,958; milch cows, 99,823; young cattle, 35,795;—total, 178,413. Carriages, 267; pleasure waggons, 1,170; town lots, 3,460.—The total value of this property is, in Halifax currency, L.4,106,677 14s. 9d.

The official return of the population shews a total of 321,903 souls; but as there is reason to believe that the population returns are very incorrect, the amount may be taken at 350,000.

Referring to these accounts, I beg leave to observe, that upon making a calculation, at the prices of the country, of the value of the different items of which the account is composed, it will be found that a price has been set upon the lands far above what

ought to have been done, more particularly upon the uncultivated lands, to which, in the present instance, no value should be attached, as they are altogether unproductive; very little of the purchase-money has even ever been paid, and a great part of them is actually in a state of nature. Taking, however, the aggregate amount of property as stated, it will be seen that it is considerably under L.12 currency for each inhabitant of the country; and it has been ascertained by the Commissioners appointed by the House of Commons to investigate the matter, that the settlement even of the poorest Emigrant cost L.12 sterling. Here, then, instead of a great increase of stock and capital, promised to Emigrants by settling in Canada, the whole amount of the property now valued by official assessors is less than the actual first cost of settlement, besides all the labour and extra capital which have been expended upon the lands, even taking into account the value in money for these lands, a great part of which is still in a state of nature and wholly unproductive.

A moment's reflection upon the scarcity of live stock, and particularly of working cattle and horses, will at once show the deplorable state of destitution to which many thousands of the settlers must be re-

them, and two or four oxen to jerk out the immense stump. Then the collecting and building in heaps have to be repeated, and the second drying process and burning to be attended to. That operation occupies one season; and then has to *commence* the "taking in" of the land.

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Now that the roots are removed, there are roads to be made, bridges over watercourses, &c. which, in this country, is in general the work of many years, but which, by the writers in question, seem to be very easily done, and they treat the matter so very lightly, that they consider it more necessary to find out amusement for the settler than to say any thing of the work which has to be done, and they, of course, change the subject as quickly as possible to field sports and shooting, although every one in the least acquainted with the country must acknowledge that a farmer will see more game in a ten-acre field in Scotland, in one evening, than he will see upon his *estate* of 200 acres in Canada in seven years. That—and not to the absence of game-laws, to which the “Backwoodsman,” by a strange sort of reasoning, attributes it—is the true cause that the poachers (of whom, to the honour of his neighbours, this gentleman thinks such a great proportion of the Canadian population consists) no longer kill game; for the impossibility of procuring it alone occasions its making its appearance so very seldom in the market, to which every thing of that kind is carried, to enable the poor men to get a little sugar or molasses to make their hemlock *tea* at all drinkable.

## LETTER VIII.

HAVING adverted to the general poverty of the great majority of the settlers in Canada, I will here insert several extracts from official documents, which will I think show, in a very striking point of view, how very little progress is making in the increase of capital in Upper Canada; or rather will prove that all the capital which has been employed in the cultivation of the soil has been actually lost, or very nearly so.

In the Third Report on Emigration, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed (29th June, 1827), in the evidence taken before the Committee it will be seen that the Hon. Mr. Robinson, who superintended the emigration and settlement of 2024 emigrants from Ireland to Upper Canada in 1825, gives the following account of the expense:—

He estimates (No. 3606) “that the Emigrants of 1825 cost, after deducting provisions delivered to commissary at Quebec, £20 per head, reckoning

men, women, and children, viz. three children to one man and woman, who received rations from date of shipment in May, 1825, to 24th November, 1826." Mr. Felton and Mr. Buchanan (No. 3610) estimate each family of five persons at L.60 sterling, from period of leaving the mother country to termination of receiving assistance in Colonies—say, 15 months after arrival. Mr. Buchanan, p. 512, estimates the expense of transport and settlement of a man, woman, and three children, from the United Kingdom to location, if not exceeding 50 miles from Quebec, at L.11 11s. 6d.; but if taken to the Ottawa, Kingston, or York (Toronto), L.3 or L.4 additional each family.

From these official documents it will be seen what is the expense to the old country of settling Emigrants, even of the lowest grade, in Canada, without taking into account any little property which that class of persons can be supposed to have with them, but which is generally something. The amount will appear to be L.12 sterling.

Let it now be ascertained, as nearly as possible, what is the estimated value of the property at present in Upper Canada. The aggregate amount of rateable property in Upper Canada for the year 1834,

as lately published by authority, is as follows :—  
*Lands*: Acres uncultivated, 4,122,296; cultivated, 1,004,773. *Houses*: Squared timber, one storey, 3,568—with 122 additional fire-places; squared timber, two storeys, 482—with 169 additional fire-places; framed, brick or stone, one storey, 9,968—with 3,880 additional fire-places; framed, brick or stone, two storeys, 2,962—with 2,686 additional fire-places; flouring-mills, 328—with 182 additional pairs of stones; saw-mills, 788; storehouses, 138; merchants' shops, 1,068; merchants' storehouses, 264. *Live Stock*: Horses, 42,958; milch cows, 99,823; young cattle, 35,795;—total, 178,413. Carriages, 267; pleasure waggons, 1,170; town lots, 3,460.—The total value of this property is, in Halifax currency, L.4,106,677 14s. 9d.

The official return of the population shews a total of 321,903 souls; but as there is reason to believe that the population returns are very incorrect, the amount may be taken at 350,000.

Referring to these accounts, I beg leave to observe, that upon making a calculation, at the prices of the country, of the value of the different items of which the account is composed, it will be found that a price has been set upon the lands far above what

ought to have been done, more particularly upon the uncultivated lands, to which, in the present instance, no value should be attached, as they are altogether unproductive; very little of the purchase-money has even ever been paid, and a great part of them is actually in a state of nature. Taking, however, the aggregate amount of property as stated, it will be seen that it is considerably under L.12 currency for each inhabitant of the country; and it has been ascertained by the Commissioners appointed by the House of Commons to investigate the matter, that the settlement even of the poorest Emigrant cost L.12 sterling. Here, then, instead of a great increase of stock and capital, promised to Emigrants by settling in Canada, the whole amount of the property now valued by official assessors is less than the actual first cost of settlement, besides all the labour and extra capital which have been expended upon the lands, even taking into account the value in money for these lands, a great part of which is still in a state of nature and wholly unproductive.

A moment's reflection upon the scarcity of live stock, and particularly of working cattle and horses, will at once show the deplorable state of destitution to which many thousands of the settlers must be re-

duced. The proportion of horses, *of all ages*, is less than 1 to every 8 inhabitants; of oxen, less than 1 to 8; of cows, 1 to about 4; of young cattle, 1 to 10. Now, as one ox is of no use singly for draught, this number gives only  $21,397\frac{1}{2}$  yokes for the use of 350,000, or about one yoke to 17 persons; and as nearly all the agricultural operations, and the greater part of the hauling of timber and fuel, have to be performed by oxen, it is clear that the country, taken on an average, is reduced to a most deplorable state for want of animal power for cultivating lands, and still worse for that most necessary appendage to the establishment of any person residing in the country, a milk cow; for as there is only one to four persons, and some (such as Colonel Talbot) have as many as twenty or thirty, it follows that many thousands of families have no cow at all. Indeed, the almost total want of any thing like pasture in the woods of Canada, the scarcity of hay to supply cattle for six or seven months every year, and the utter impossibility of deriving any assistance to them from turnips, makes the keeping of cattle a most expensive and unprofitable concern. This is a department of husbandry from which the agriculturist in that country can never at any period derive any advantage,—a

circumstance which very few farmers, before they leave Britain, are at all aware of, but which soon makes them feel, a most important blank in the proceeds of a farm, so very different from what they have been accustomed to at home. A reference to the proportion of young cattle to the number of old will show at once the difficulty of raising cattle in Canada, for there are of oxen and cows 142,618, and only 35,795 young stock. The fact is, there is a constant importation of old cattle from the States, which must be had for immediate use, but which they cannot, as in other countries, raise of their own, for want of pasture and hay.

## LETTER IX.

IN the preceding Letters it must appear evident, however much the advocates for settling in the woods may attempt to disguise it, that a great deal of labour—of course, a great deal of cost—is required before a farm is sufficiently cleared to admit of any thing like facility in performing what is, in this country, considered the common operations of “farming;” and as it will in no case be found that, even with an annual supply of funds from other sources, the first clearing can be accomplished within ten years, and, from the lapse of time to allow the stumps to become dead, at least another ten years before they can be removed, it must be at least twenty years after beginning the settlement in Canada before even that can be attained. That may, in calculation, be considered to be *possible*, with a constant supply of funds annually from the old country; but I believe I may say, without fear of



men, women, and children, viz. three children to one man and woman, who received rations from date of shipment in May, 1825, to 24th November, 1826." Mr. Felton and Mr. Buchanan (No. 3610) estimate each family of five persons at L.60 sterling, from period of leaving the mother country to termination of receiving assistance in Colonies—say, 15 months after arrival. Mr. Buchanan, p. 512, estimates the expense of transport and settlement of a man, woman, and three children, from the United Kingdom to location, if not exceeding 50 miles from Quebec, at L.11 11s. 6d.; but if taken to the Ottawa, Kingston, or York (Toronto), L.3 or L.4 additional each family.

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the effects of the one in North America than of the other in India. A *cold* iron during a Canadian winter, when tightly grasped, blisters and *burns* with nearly equal facility as a *hot iron*. The principle, in both instances, is alike—in the former, the *caloric* or vital heat of the body passes so rapidly *from the hand* into the cold iron, as to destroy the continuous and organic structure of the part; in the latter, the *caloric* passes so rapidly from the *hot iron* into the hand, as to produce the same effect: heat, in both cases, being the cause; its passing *into* the body *from the iron*, or *into the iron from the body*, being equally injurious to vitality. From a similar cause the incautious traveller, in Canada, is *burnt* in the face by a very *cold* wind, with the same sensations as when he is exposed to the blast of an eastern *sirocco*."

"The term *frost-bitten* denotes the effect produced by extreme cold, accompanied by a sharp biting wind. In such weather, persons are liable to have the nose, toes, fingers, ears, or those parts where the circulation of the blood is scanty and slow, *frost-bitten*, without being made aware of the change by their own sensations; and it not unfrequently happens that they are first informed of their misfortune

by a passing stranger, who observes the nose, for instance, becoming quite *white*, while the rest of the face is very red. In such a predicament, it is at first startling to see an utter stranger running up to you with a handful of snow, calling out, "*Your nose, sir ; your nose is frost-bitten ;*" and, without further ceremony, rubs without mercy at your proboscis—it being the first time, perhaps, that any one has ever dared to tweak and twinge that exquisitely sensitive organ, which some have considered the seat of honour. If *snow* be well *rubbed in* in due time, there is a chance of saving the most prominent feature of the face ; if not, or if *heat* be applied, not only is the skin destroyed, but the nose, and a great part of the adjacent surface, are irrecoverably lost.

" The result of the long-continued action of snow or cold on the animal frame is inevitable death, and that of the most pleasing kind. At first a degree of langour is felt,—to this succeeds an oppressive drowsiness, which, if indulged in, is surely fatal—the sufferer passing, without motion or pain, from the slumber of life into the cold sleep of death, leaving the countenance as calm and placid as if the pulse of existence still vibrated through the frame, while voluntary muscular power was suspended under

the delightful enjoyment of sound repose. Those who feel the pleasurable moments which intervene between the states of consciousness and unconsciousness on approaching sleep—when indistinct visions and indescribable emotions are experienced by the guileless—may readily conceive the exquisite mode in which the soporific influence of the frost softens the iron grasp of the grim tyrant.”

“ Travelling over frozen rivers or lakes, is, however, not unattended with real danger ; the sleigh, its horses and passengers, *being not unfrequently instantly engulfed, and sucked beneath the ice ;* there being no warning of the danger until the horses sink, dragging the carriage and its inmates after them. Fortunately, the weak or thin places are in general of no great extent ; and when the horses are found to be sinking, the passengers instantly leap out on the strong ice, seize the ropes, which, with a running noose, are placed ready for such an emergency on every sleigh horse’s neck, and, by sheer pulling, the animal is strangled in order to save his life ! This is absolutely a fact. If the horse be allowed to kick and struggle, it only serves to injure and sink him : as soon, however, as the noose is drawn tight, his breathing is momentarily checked,

strangulation takes place, the animal becomes motionless, rises to the surface, floats on one side, and is then drawn out on the strong ice, when the noose being loosened, respiration re-commences, and the horse is on his feet carrioling away again in a few minutes as briskly as ever. This singular and almost incredible operation has been known to be performed two or three times a day on the same horse; and the Americans say, that like Irishmen, the animals are *so used to being hanged that they think nothing of it*. Often, however, horses, sleigh or carriage, and passengers, are in a moment sunk, and swept beneath the ice. The traveller on the frozen rivers, but more especially on the frozen lakes, incurs also great danger from the large rifts or openings which run from one side of the lake to the other, from one to six feet broad, causing, at some distance from the crack, a shelving up of the ice to the height of several feet, in proportion to the breadth of the fissure. The sleigh drivers, when they see no other mode of passing, or of escape, make the horses endeavour to leap the chink at full gallop, with the sleigh behind them, at the imminent risk of being engulfed in the lake.

“A snow-storm is another source of danger to the

American traveller; and there is, indeed, something truly awful and terrific in a snow-storm on land, as well in as a hurricane at sea, with this disadvantage attending the traveller on *terra firma*, that he has no land-marks, supplying the place of the mariner's compass, to guide him in his trackless path, while the intellects become rapidly bewildered, memory fails, and a road often travelled, and formerly well known, is utterly lost in the remembrance of the unfortunate traveller. While the heavy fall of snow is taking place, it is accompanied by a violent gale of wind, which drifts the light snow along with great velocity, forming in its progress innumerable eddies and turnings according to the inequalities of the surface, and raising as it were light clouds from the earth, which obscure and confuse every thing. This drift, which the Canadians call *La Poudre*, consists of minute but intensely frozen particles of snow, which, whirled by the impetuosity of the hurricane, force their way through the smallest window or door chink, leaving large heaps of snow on the floor in a few hours, as we sometimes experience on a small scale in England."

"As soon as the winter sets in, the farmer is obliged to house all his cattle, sheep, and poultry,



when those destined for winter use are killed before they lose any of the fat acquired during the summer and autumn."

That description is much more correct than is generally to be met with; but there are two points upon which I do not agree, by any means, with him:—the first is, that when he says that "the result of the long continued action of snow or cold is inevitable death, and that of the most pleasing kind." Now I have been all but dead with the cold, but really I felt nothing pleasing in it at all; and I must also say, that the practice of strangling your horse in the water when he gets through the ice is very seldom practised—drowning him is much more common. The above description of winter travelling is very different from what is generally given in the advertising publications, but is much more true.

It is also necessary towards the forming of a correct idea of the difference betwixt the climates of Canada and Scotland, to compare the Meteorological Tables of the two countries with one another; and for that purpose I insert a Table of the comparative statements of Upper and Lower Canada, and also of Kinfauns Castle in Perthshire, where a very correct account of the state of the weather is kept by the

Right Hon. Lord Gray. Both the Canadian statements must be considered to be partially favourable as to the cold of winter, both being taken almost at the southern extremities of the respective provinces. The real state of the cold over the great extent of the provinces would be found much greater.

**METEOROLOGICAL TABLE,**  
EXTRACTED FROM THE REGISTER KEPT AT KINFARNS CASTLE, N. BRITAIN.  
Lat. 56 deg. 23 min. 30. sec.—Above the level of the Sea, 150 feet.

1835.	Morn. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 9.		Even. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8.		Mean Temper. by Six's THER.	ANNUAL RESULTS.
	Mean height of		Mean height of			
	BAR.	THER.	BAR.	THER.		
January, .....	29.738	35.806	29.735	36.032	36.386	THER. Morning. 11th August, 70 deg. 19th January, 25 deg.
February, .....	29.273	39.786	29.289	38.500	39.786	
March, .....	29.612	41.290	29.629	38.290	40.516	
April, .....	29.853	46.867	29.866	44.233	45.367	
May, .....	29.613	51.387	29.613	46.548	49.000	Evening. 10th June, 65 deg. 17th January, 23 deg.
June, .....	29.837	58.633	29.844	54.333	56.267	
July, .....	29.735	60.774	29.745	55.129	58.064	
August, .....	29.732	61.774	29.734	57.129	59.839	
September, .....	29.348	54.567	29.326	52.800	53.200	
October, .....	29.413	45.032	29.446	44.484	44.645	
November, .....	29.628	41.633	29.631	40.233	41.100	
December, .....	29.851	38.484	29.861	37.419	37.903	
Average of the year,	29.636	48.003	29.643	45.427	46.840	

COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE CLIMATES OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA.

	THERMOMETER—FAHRENHEIT.						WEATHER.					
	UPPER CANADA.			LOWER CANADA.			UPPER CANADA.			LOWER CANADA.		
	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Clear.	Rain or Snow.	Cloudy	Clear.	Rain or Snow.	Cloudy
January, .....	48	-20	18-17	33	-23	11-14	days. 13	days. 8	days. 9	days. 23	days. 4	days. 4
February, .....	50	8	23-87	40	-29	10-69	11	10	7	21	3	5
March, .....	52	0	26-94	47	-26	12-13	21	8	2	25	3	3
April, .....	83	40	59-70	81	9	48-91	23	3	4	25	3	3
May, .....	92	40	67-32	92	30	67-84	22	5	4	23	4	4
June, .....	97	57	77-51	95	55	76-34	22	8	3	26	2	2
July, .....	103	60	81-37	103	62	82-23	25	3	3	26	3	2
August, .....	99	55	73-24	100	58	74-7	21	5	5	16	12	2
September, ....	92	33	64-45	90	30	59-16	21	5	4	18	8	5
October, .....	74	28	48-	55	9	32-24	13	8	9	16	5	8
November, .....	54	10	34-53	40	-13	17-44	11	14	7	14	7	10
December, .....	41	-2	25-43	43	-21	11-94	11	12	8	23	2	5
For the year, ....	73-8	25-72	48-37	68-25	11-75	42-1	214	89	62	256	56	53
For the months June, July, and August, .....	96-66	57-33	77-37	99-33	58-33	77-54		34 snow.			21 snow.	
Winter months,	46-33	-4-67	22-49	38-66	-24-33	11-25		55 rain.			35 rain.	

The principal disadvantages, therefore, which the farmer must experience in Emigration to Canada, are—

1st, Length of winter and dreadful severity thereof, which must, one year with another, be reckoned upon as at least six months, during all which time cattle and horses are wholly excluded from the fields.

2d, Consequent shortness of spring, summer, and autumn,—the heavy rains during part of the spring and autumn rendering the grounds so wet, that not above five months can be reckoned upon for performing the whole operations in the fields for the year.

3d, The absolute necessity there is for keeping up a double stock of cattle and horses, in order to do the work in less than half the time which would be required at home; and also of employing more than double the number of men upon expensive food, as no woman can be got to work for hire in any agricultural operation.

4th, The great distance from markets in almost every instance, which makes it necessary to have horses very much upon the road, if there is any thing to sell, the roads being almost invariably so bad as that they would not in this country be considered passable.

5th, The very great proportion of the cleared land that must at all times be kept for hay,—working horses are kept upon hay throughout the whole year,—the growing season being so very short, and the grass running so quickly to seed, that soiling is never attempted : indeed the necessary labour could not be applied. Work oxen require hay nine months, and all other stock, to make them thrive, require it seven months. Straw is altogether worthless, being so much dried by ripening quickly with the great heats, and there being no turnips, cattle cannot eat it. It will seldom keep them alive through such a long winter, and many cattle die for want of nourishment. At least two-thirds of every farm in Canada requires to be kept in grass for its own stock alone.

6th, Consequent small proportion of the cleared land to raise other crop, and great proportion of the grain required for feeding so many people in proportion to the grain raised. Such a great proportion having to be left for hay will for ever prevent a farmer from selling much produce off his land.

7th, Low price of produce.

8th, High price of labour.

9th, Difficulty of getting farm servants.

10th, Absolute impossibility of bettering the matter by keeping stock.

11th, High price for every article required to be purchased: clothing more than double what it is in Scotland, and, in many instances, three times as much, in the small distant stores. Groceries much dearer than at home. The making of maple sugar is little better than a hoax: it is seldom made by any but the French Canadians. The sugar and teas imported into Canada are in general very bad; and most settlers are obliged from necessity to go without sweetening altogether.

12th, Unhealthiness of the climate, which makes it necessary for every family, who can at all afford it, to resort very frequently to medical assistance.

13th, Frequency of fires. No insurance can be effected in the woods; and when a fire happens it is a total loss. There is no landlord to look to, to rebuild the houses: all is gone. Very many are reduced to destitution by fire.

14th, Impossibility of getting children educated, excepting in some of the towns. Not only are good teachers seldom to be met with, because, from the poverty of the inhabitants, and their being so widely separated from one another, teachers cannot be sup-

ported, but during the whole of the winter children cannot go to school from the depth of snow and severity of the weather; and in the summer, the parents are obliged by necessity to keep them at home to do something, however little, to enable them to live. The families of which the children were so far educated before leaving Britain, soon lose what they have learned, and in that respect the families of Emigrants are retrograding very rapidly. There is connected with this a most important consideration for the parent. In Britain, if a man has many sons there are as many different trades, occupations, or professions, to which some of these sons may be brought up.\* No such prospect opens for the son of the settler in the woods. Nearly the whole of the commerce of the country is carried on by respectable merchants in Montreal or Quebec, whose connections, both in Britain and America, have long been established. These merchants have families of their own educated in the cities, or have the assistance of young men from Britain who have

\* How many respectable members of society, in almost every line of life, do we here see, who are the sons of farmers, ay, and of farmers, too, who were enabled, by cultivating rented lands with industry and skill, to spare out of their earnings a sufficiency to bring forward their families even in the learned professions.

been well educated and trained to habits of application at home. These are the assistants the merchants will employ, and not the young men who, whatever may be their other qualifications, have been accustomed in the woods to the desultory life to which they are unavoidably exposed. There are not, nor ever can possibly be in such a climate, any other manufactures, besides such as the housewife conducts at her fireside and for the use of her family. There is no chance of the parent ever realizing any profits to send a son to a town to educate him for the pulpit, the lancet, or the law: the principal tradesmen of every kind are necessarily almost wholly from Britain; for the work is so irregular, and the habits of the young lads so unsettled, from want of education and habits of regular application at stated hours, that there is scarcely such a thing as a young man from the country acquiring a proper knowledge of his business as a tradesman or artizan. The principal tradesmen and artizans will always be from Britain, and thus almost every avenue to advancement in life is shut to the son of the husbandman. He must, if he remains in Canada, remain debarred, by the nature of the country and climate, from exercising his talents even upon that



soil to which he is chained, to procure himself a hardly-earned subsistence; but he will not long remain so chained in such a country. Young men, who have left Britain in high hopes, will not long toil among stumps, stones, and snow; and, after doing so for a few years, they break off, go to the southward, and leave the old people in helplessness and misery.

This last objection to Emigration, in my opinion, outweighs all the others; and the parent who considers—as it is to be hoped every parent does consider—the advancement of his children and their settlement in life as paramount to every other consideration, will, if he thinks well of it, pause before he deranges, by breaking up his present connections in life, that beautiful system of education, and training to regular habits of industry and application, and attention to the ordinances of religion, which so generally prevail in this fruitful and delightful country.

From the whole of the circumstances attendant upon the situation of the farmer in Canada, it must, I think, appear evident to every one who will consider them carefully, that to any one but the mere labourer Upper Canada can neither be desirable as

a residence nor profitable as an adventure from which any one can expect to attain a comfortable settlement for a respectable family, or to benefit the interests of the family by removing to it: and even to the poorest labourer in Scotland I do not consider it to be at all advisable, excepting under some very peculiar circumstances. That, however, the Emigration to British North America of hundreds of thousands from Ireland would be a most beneficial change to themselves, and highly important in a national point of view, is beyond all doubt, not only as such a measure would affect Ireland itself, but also as it would so highly benefit the Provinces, and maintain and establish more firmly the British power in a quarter so indispensably necessary to the best and most vital interests of the British empire.







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